

IAEA to restore Israel cooperation

VIENNA (AP) — Political leaders of the U.N. nuclear monitoring organisation decided Friday to restore full technical cooperation with Israel despite objections by Iran and Arab states. The decision infuriated the Iranian delegation, which demanded a roll-call vote on the issue at the close of the weeklong annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But Friday's decision to restore such aid is largely symbolic because Israel, a developed state with advanced nuclear capabilities, most likely would not be eligible for any. It is, however, an important psychological victory for Israel, especially in light of recent progress towards a Middle East peace settlement. IAEA member states voted to revoke nuclear technical assistance to Israel after Israeli jets destroyed an Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981 shortly before it was to start operating. Qatar, Lebanon, Syria, Libya and Jordan joined Iran in objecting but did not demand a roll-call vote. Islamic states have used past annual conference as a forum to demand that Israel open its nuclear program to outside scrutiny. Israel has said it favours declaring the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, but only in the context of an overall peace settlement with stringent mutual verification guarantees.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراب

Ross leaves Morocco for home

RABAT (R) — U.S. envoy Dennis Ross left Rabat for Washington on Friday after briefing King Hassan of Morocco on recent developments in the Middle East peace process. In a prepared departure statement, he said he had also attended a meeting of the steering committee for a Middle East economic conference due to open in Casablanca on Oct. 30. "The United States congratulates the government of Morocco for hosting the Casablanca economic summit," Mr. Ross said. "Morocco's dedication to and active role in the peace process" was deeply appreciated by U.S. President Bill Clinton, the envoy said. "The recent joint Moroccan-Israeli announcement of the establishment of diplomatic liaison offices in Israel and Morocco is but the latest example of Morocco's long-standing commitment and leadership to building a comprehensive Middle East peace," he added. "Next month's Casablanca summit represents a unique, indeed historic opportunity for achieving genuine regional economic prosperity and cooperation, and integration between Israel and her neighbours," he said.

Volume 18 Number 5723

AMMAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1994, RAB' ALTHANI 18, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Christopher upbeat on Syria and Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Friday he would make one and possibly two trips to the Middle East, in October because Syria and Israel are serious about concluding a peace accord.

The two sides are deadlocked on how much territory Israel would relinquish on the strategic Golan Heights and what kind of peace Syria would provide in return. But Mr. Christopher registered optimism in an exchange with reporters.

"I think a trip is well-justified at the present time," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa will come here Oct. 5-6 to see Mr. Christopher. Last week, Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's senior policy adviser on the Middle East, held talks in Syria and Israel. Mr. Christopher said Mr. Ross's reports made him feel the journey would be worthwhile.

He said he would go to Israel and Syria, as well as Egypt and possibly Jordan, in the second week of October — he said the exact date was not set — and might return at the end of the month as part of another trip that will take him to Casablanca, Morocco, for an economic summit meeting of Middle East and North African countries.

Mr. Christopher, keeping close tabs on Middle East diplomacy even while subordinates grapple with some other top world problems, has been in the region four times since May.

Syria and Israel are considering an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for diplomatic relations with Syria, but the terms remain unsettled after years of bargaining.

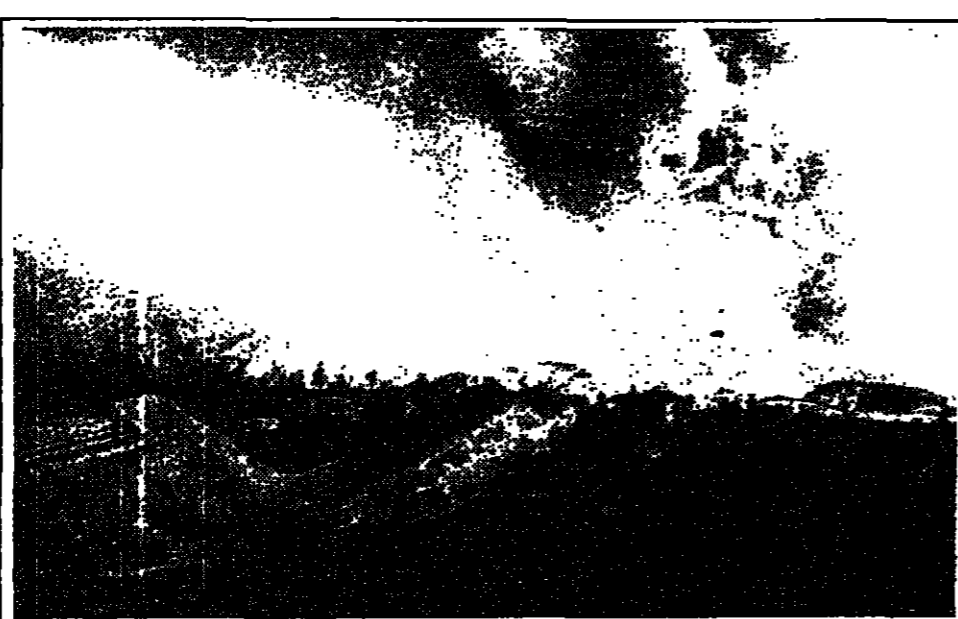
Next week, Mr. Sharaa, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Christopher will all be in New York attending the U.N. General Assembly. Diplomatic sources said there was no sign the Israeli and Syrian officials would meet directly.

Syria broke off talks with Israel last February, but has been swapping ideas on a peace treaty with Israel through Mr. Christopher and other U.S. intermediaries.

An official Syrian newspaper on Friday criticised the U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East, saying Washington should play a more active role.

"The gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions will remain wide as long as the Israelis believe their occupation of Arab territories is

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VOLCANO ERUPTS: An aircraft sits on the runway of Papea New which also covered the town home to 30,000 Guineans. Rabaul airport Friday. Four aircraft and two helicopters were trapped by

Jordan seeks equal access to economic dividends of peace

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's option to accept a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed a strategic political decision, but the Kingdom also needs an equal opportunity access to the economic fruits of peace if it were to maintain the state of peace and stability in the region, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Humeidi said Friday.

The Kingdom, which has always borne the brunt of all conflicts in the Middle East, paid a heavy price for no fault of its own, the minister said, adding that Jordan's total losses over the decades were estimated at \$16 billion.

"We fully comprehend the intricate relationship between peace and development," Dr. Humeidi told a "Peace Economy Business Roundtable" in New York. "Without peace, the development potential cannot be realised; but at the same time, peace cannot be sustained without equitable development."

Dr. Humeidi said Jordan was not seeking any preferential treatment from the international community in the inflow of foreign private capital into the region in the wake of a peace settlement. But, she said, Jordan is maintaining that the "opportunity to benefit from the peace dividend should be made more balanced."

"Economically, this would



Rima Khalaf Humeidi

mean an equitable share for each party in the scarce resources of the region," said Dr. Humeidi. "It would mean equal chances to attract foreign investments — the perceived engine for growth and technology transfer, and equal chances to benefits from the anticipated booms, be it in tourism, construction or other industries and services."

"It also means dealing effectively with the legacies of the past... not only the economic burdens of debt and serious human displacements but also the prejudices and practices that have developed over five decades of hostilities," Dr. Humeidi said in her speech, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

"Jordan, by all standards, was not the least to suffer, neither from the devastating wars and their tragic consequences, nor from the pre-

carious hulls and tension of the intervening states of no-peace no-war," the minister said.

Noting that Jordan had to house over a million of refugees and offer them help in various forms, "and perhaps even a glimmer of hope," Dr. Humeidi said the Kingdom had to stretch its resources "thin at the risk of leaving very little for future generations."

The yawning gap between the needs of the population and resources adversely affected Jordan's economic and social systems, she said, adding that the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, budget deficits, high unemployment rate and poverty were results of "instability-driven population migrations."

"The total direct financial burden that Jordan shouldered as a result of regional conflicts and actions of others is estimated at \$16 billion, not to mention the indirect cost of interrupted development and lost opportunities," she said.

The minister briefly reviewed Jordan's contribution to the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in 1991 and noted that the Kingdom had made major headway in building confidence-building measures while striving for a peace accord with Israel that could be reached after settling the basic conflicts over territory and water.

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King reiterates confidence in Majali and government

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has reaffirmed his confidence in the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and expressed hope that rumours and unfounded reports about an imminent change of government would end.

"I would like to reconfirm my absolute confidence in Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as I did when Jordan started its moves towards the peace process, when Dr. Majali headed the Jordanian delegation to the talks," King Hussein said at a meeting held Thursday at the Royal Court and attended by representatives of the official information media and the press.

"When we decided to enter the peace process and to form an umbrella for the Palestinians to join the talks, we searched for the right person who could shoulder this difficult task in the new battle of peace. Our choice was Dr. Majali, who became head of the Jordanian delegation shouldering this serious responsibility," King Hussein said.

"We are still pursuing the

path of peace and Dr. Majali as prime minister and his team as well as the Jordanian negotiators are all shouldering their tasks with loyalty and keen on serving their country and nation," King Hussein added.

"Dr. Majali is now prime minister and is my first adviser while his Cabinet members are all ministers of the King and so any government reshuffle pertains to me and to them as well. So we wish to put an end to rumours and tales because our confidence in the prime minister is absolute and we wish him success in his endeavours," King Hussein said.

Praising the prime minister as brave, courageous and candid, the King said: "No one is perfect and we all accept remarks and criticism and try to find appropriate solutions for all problems."

King Hussein expressed hope that the government would continue to acquire all backing on the part of all so that it can achieve success.

Referring to public administration reform, the King said that the government was aiming to attain the most appropriate and efficient

level of performance by the public administration services.

"We have sought a proper mechanism to achieve that goal, especially at the higher levels, which we hope will not remain exposed to change except whenever that is absolutely necessary so that consistent work can be maintained and pursued," the King said.

"In view of the changes expected in the pattern of life in Jordan we are keen on maintaining an impeccable image of our country, and so we are careful not to allow certain parties or elements to enjoy advantages and opportunities at the expense of the community as a whole," he added.

"To achieve this goal," the King said, he decided on the formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, which, he said, is not to compete with the government's work. He said that there are some elements which tend to adversely affect the executive authority's activities and to impede any progress.

"We want this country to serve as a model to others

and it is incumbent on every one to know his or her limits and not to infringe on the rights of others," said King Hussein.

"We wish well for everybody in the Arab World, but we cannot help following our own policies and methods to attain our objectives."

The peace process, King Hussein said, has been proceeding well. "Contrary to what has been reported that there has been no progress, I believe we have covered good ground," King Hussein said. He noted that Jordan had insisted from the start that all outstanding issues should be discussed "until we reach a satisfactory result."

Hoping that more progress would be achieved the King said: "We hope to regain our rights in our lands and our waters and achieve the aspirations of the nation in a comprehensive peace."

Earlier, the prime minister denied rumours about an imminent change of government as totally unfounded. "Any government change or reshuffle is totally left to the King, who is the head of

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Princess Basma urges world support for Mideast peace

NEW YORK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has called on the world nations to mobilise their energies and capabilities to support peace as they did in supporting wars.

In an address delivered Thursday before the seventh annual conference of the DP/UNO conference held at the United Nations here, Princess Basma said the peoples of the Middle East are now aspiring eagerly to enter the new era of peace.

"I come from a region that has been the generator of great ideas and noble principles. Yet it is almost a region that has rarely enjoyed comprehensive peace. We, of the

region, therefore, especially appreciate the theme of this conference, which is a manifestation of the common will of the international community, represented by the United Nations, to enhance the role of the peoples in peace building," the Princess told the conference, held under the title "We the Peoples: Building Peace."

"Previously, nations and people alike, engaged themselves in military preparedness, and it is appropriate now that we are on the threshold of the twenty-first century that the U.N. is trying to shift the emphasis to peace preparedness by engaging the peoples of the

world," Princess Basma added, noting that the U.N. Charter includes among its major objectives the maintenance of peace and security, and the promotion of economic development and asserting that there can be no lasting peace without development and that development cannot become a reality without security and stability.

Pointing out that NGOs have been playing a role in alleviating poverty and unemployment, she called for expanding this role through the support of the international community and international organisations.

She also underlined that the eradication of poverty



"and thus the reinforcement of the dignity of our peoples should be the focus of our efforts. Labour and dignity go hand in hand. This is why the right to work should be an inalienable right of all individuals."

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. wants junta to leave Haiti

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials kept up the pressure on Haiti's military rulers Friday to leave the country after they step down from office, despite their insistence on staying.

Mr. Christopher said Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and associates will be stepping down by Oct. 15, the deadline reached in an agreement struck Sunday by a delegation to Haiti led by former President Jimmy Carter.

"We also think that they will probably want to leave the country after (exiled President Jean-Bertrand) Aristide comes back and I still think that may happen — that would be our preferred outcome..." Mr. Christopher said on NBC's "Today" programme.

Gen. Cedras has said he will not leave the country and that such a possibility was not discussed in negotiations between Mr. Carter and the military rulers who ousted

Mr. Aristide in 1991. The deal averted an invasion of Haiti by U.S.-led military forces which later landed without resistance.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright echoed Mr. Christopher's position that Gen. Cedras, Haiti's strongman police chief Lieutenant Colonel Michel Francois and Brigadier General Philippe Biamby should exit Haiti.

"We still think for all practical purposes they ought to and will be leaving the country," Ms. Albright said on ABC's "Good Morning America" programme.

Gen. Biamby also has not only insisted he will live in Haiti after the deadline but, according to Mr. Carter, has threatened suicide rather than be forced from the Caribbean island.

Mr. Carter, who was accompanied to Haiti by retired General Colin Powell and Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, said Thursday that the group never said the generals will leave.

"Our delegation has never said that we think the generals will leave," Mr. Carter told NBC.

"In fact, Gen. Biamby told Powell, and I overheard it, that he would commit suicide before he would be forced out of this country," he added.

On the same ABC programme, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Swing said from Port-au-Prince it would be preferable for the military rulers to leave the island after Aristide returned.

Asked whether Gen. Cedras' refusal to get out is merely bluster, Mr. Swing said that "it is certainly his public position... it certainly is our wish and our desire that he leave Haiti after that time, and I believe he will find it in his interest to do so."

President Bill Clinton said Friday steps to curb police abuse in Haiti were working and a deployment of U.S. military police and a weapons-buying programme should help ease the violence further.

He also said the first Haitian refugees will be shipped back to Haiti on Monday from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

"Already the situation on the ground has become calmer and more peaceful," Mr. Clinton said at a bill-signing ceremony at the agriculture department.

He said the 1,000 U.S. military police in Haiti, which were beginning patrols Friday with Haitian security forces, were there "to keep a close watch on the police and to see there is professional action there with restraint."

The landing of U.S. forces in Haiti to restore democracy was marred almost immediately by the beating death of a demonstrator by Haitian police. U.S. troops watched as the protesters were dispersed.

The administration was embarrassed when Haitian soldiers and police used clubs and rifle butts to attack crowds of people who had

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EU studying major Jordan programme

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — European nations are discussing a programme of economic and political support for Jordan and diplomatic sources said the initiative could be announced in the "very near future."

The sources told the Jordan Times that in addition to helping the Kingdom and encouraging its role in the peace process, the Europeans are taking the initiative to reassert their role in the region after it was "marginalised" by their absence from the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel.

The sources said the Europeans feel uncomfortable with the growing American economic and political presence in the area at the expense of Europe, which has traditionally had strong political and economic ties with the countries of the region.

After the Gulf war, the Europeans felt uncomfortable when the United States consolidated its economic and political presence in the Gulf "at the expense of European interests," sources said. This feeling is "being repeated now with the U.S. increasing its presence in the Middle East through its involvement in the bilateral talks of the peace process as the Europeans" are kept at bay, Western diplomatic sources said.

The sources said Jordan is aware of the Europeans' unhappiness with the marginalisation of their role in the area to the advantage of the Americans.

European countries have been kept out of the bilateral peace talks between the Arabs and Israel but are involved in the multilateral phase of the negotiations.

The sources say, however, that the multilateral talks are being seen as "academic debates" that are producing no results, unlike the bilateral negotiations which are registering tangible progress and thus preparing the ground for us to "take the biggest share of the economic pie" in the area in terms of winning the contracts and business deals that will be offered in the future.

Sources said the European nations will soon be pushing towards having the multilateral achieve tangible results in terms of solid projects that can be implemented. Through improving the image of the multilaterals and producing solid results out of them, the sources said, European countries hope to regain their presence in the area economically and politically.

The Gulf market witnessed difficult competition between European countries and the U.S., in the aftermath of the Gulf war, with some European nations attributing the success of the U.S. in getting a bigger share of the market to political considerations that weighed in favour of Washington due to its larger involvement in the Gulf war.

Jordan defends historic role in Jerusalem shrines

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said on Friday it would not relinquish supervision of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the occupied territories at this early stage of Palestinian self-rule.

"Any Jordanian relinquishing of its historic duties at this period means giving up Arab and Islamic rights over the sacred sites and the Aqsa (Islamic endowment), especially since Palestinian self-rule is still in its beginning," Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Abbadi said.

Arab East Jerusalem, part of the West Bank that Jordan ruled from 1950 until losing it to Israel in the 1967 war, has been a thorn in Jordanian-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ties, which hit new lows over Jordan's peace moves with Israel.

Last week Palestinian officials, running the Gaza Strip and Jericho since May, said Sheikh Hassan Tahboub, a Jerusalemite on a Palestinian authority to supervise Muslim places, would go to Amman to seek the transfer of control over holy sites.

But Dr. Abbadi, responding to questions submitted by Reuters on Thursday, said Jordan had not had any formal request to transfer control of the sites and had not heard from Sheikh Tahboub, who is also in the Jordanian-appointed 11-man Waqf council in charge of Islamic

sites in the occupied territories.

Amman says religious custodianship does not threaten Palestinian aspirations but Palestinians say it undermines their hopes for political sovereignty in the Arab half of the city.

Israel, which "annexed" east Jerusalem in 1967, views all the city as its capital but acknowledges Jordan's role in religious affairs. Under a PLO-Israel self-rule accord, the future of Jerusalem is to be negotiated in talks starting in 1996.

Dr. Abbadi said when Jordan transferred legal and administrative powers over the West Bank to the PLO in 1986, it retained religious affairs to block Israeli interference.

It employed 2,400 people, including those in Sharia courts and Islamic schools.

"The constant Jordanian administration of Islamic Aqsa (endowments) in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories in line with Jordanian laws has not stopped," Dr. Abbadi said.

"No change has occurred to the Jordanian position and there has been no change on the scene to compel a revision of this solid historic situation," he added.

Dr. Abbadi said over half of his ministry's budget went for the West Bank and Jerusalem. He said Jordan spent \$485 million on all Islamic Waqf affairs between 1952 and 1992.

هنا منه الأصل

U.N. warns Somalis to make peace, but they continue fight

NAIROBI (R) — The U.N. chief of peacekeeping, Kofi Annan, has warned Somalia's warlords that unless they make moves towards peace "almost immediately" the world body would pull out of the chaotic country.

At the same time Somali militias, oblivious of growing signs that the world could soon wash its hands of the African country, battled each other near the main U.N. base in Mogadishu with mortars, machineguns and grenades.

"I wish to warn all Somalis, especially their faction leaders, that neither the Security Council nor the international community in general is prepared to brook any further delays in moving forward the political process," Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Kofi Annan told reporters in Nairobi.

If the Somali warlords failed to show they were going to form a "broad-based government" soon, Mr. Annan said: "The Security Council will have no alternative but to bring UNOSOM's (U.N. Operation in Somalia) presence in Somalia to an end."

Mr. Annan was speaking after a four-day inspection of the \$1.5 billion-a-year U.N. operation in Somalia which the Security Council promises to review at the end of September.

He was accompanied on the visit, which included talks

with Somali warlords, by a military team to look at the future operations of the 18,800-strong Asian and African U.N. force.

The mission also briefly visited the U.N. peacekeeping army in Rwanda.

Senior U.N. sources said the Security Council was likely to delay a resolution on the Somalia mission until the end of October to see whether the warlords would succeed in getting a new reconciliation conference started in Mogadishu.

"If they are serious I would expect them (the faction leaders) to form an interim national government by the end of October," Mr. Annan said.

Privately, UNOSOM officials predict that little will come of the warlords' promises. At massive cost, the Somalis have attended several conferences in the past which have resulted in accords that collapsed within weeks.

They add that Mohammad Farah Aided, the militia chieftain who battled U.S.-led forces in Mogadishu last year, is leading efforts to organise the conference — which could end up being a council of his allies to the exclusion of his enemies.

This could spark worse fighting than there already is in many parts of Somalia, which has been carved up by clan militias since dictator

Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted in January 1991.

The U.S., despairing of its efforts to restore order to Somalia after spearheading the military operation to end a famine which killed 300,000 in 1992, evacuated its embassy in Mogadishu on Sept. 15.

With the new U.N. peacekeeping missions elsewhere in the world such as Rwanda, and with Haiti about to be launched, pressure is mounting on UNOSOM to get results or pull out long before the mandate finally expires next March.

On Security Council orders the UNOSOM army is being reduced to 15,000 troops. Peacekeepers have this month abandoned most garrisons apart from the beachheads on which they first landed in December 1992.

General Maurice Baril, military adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, was accompanying Mr. Annan and expressed concern over the safety of peacekeepers if they had to withdraw — an operation that the U.N. may need U.S. assistance to achieve.

A Pakistani soldier was wounded by a stray bullet during the inter-clan fighting in Mogadishu on Wednesday. Some 25 U.N. soldiers have been killed in militia attacks since March — a total of about 130 U.N. and U.S. peacekeepers have lost their lives in Somalia.

Israel, PLO to discuss next phase of self-rule this week

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will launch negotiations on the next stage of Palestinian self-rule in Cairo on Wednesday, a senior official said Friday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman would say only that the date was set "in principle."

Israel wants the talks to focus on the expansion of self-rule on the West Bank, known as "early empowerment," spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP. "After this is sorted out, we can talk about elections and redeployment."

The talks remain in the framework of the declaration of principles for Palestinian self-government, which called for redeployment of Israeli troops from built-up areas by the eve of elections, originally due on July 13.

Israel handed over responsibility for education on the West Bank in August, but has demanded that the Palestinians have a budget to cover operating costs before developing power over taxation, tourism, social welfare and health.

According to the senior official, who refused to be named, Israel may redeploy only gradually and selectively on the West Bank in a plan

dubbed unofficially "Nabulus or Jenin first."

The opening stage of autonomy concerned "Gaza and Jericho first" where the PLO took control from May 4, eight months after signing the declaration in Washington.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accused Israel of deliberately delaying elections to avoid the redeployment which is due to take place on the eve of voting.

Israel blames the Palestinians for the problem saying it must start collecting taxes to pay for the spread of autonomy and tackle Islamic resistance.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres cast strong doubts on the possibility of organising the elections at the start of November, a new target date set by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Some of Mr. Arafat's ministers admit that holding a vote even before the end of the year will prove a major challenge.

PLO sources said meanwhile Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat plan to meet in the Gaza Strip on Sunday to discuss Palestinian elections.

On Monday Mr. Arafat called on the European Union to help organise Palestinian elections at a meeting

with the consuls of Spain, France and Greece and a EU representative.

Mr. Arafat handed the officials a letter addressed to EU leaders, explaining the problems he was facing organising elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat said the elections should be held in November.

In another development, Mr. Arafat, in a gesture to his main political rivals, attended prayers for the first time on Friday at a mosque controlled by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in Gaza.

Mr. Arafat, accompanied by the commander of the Palestinian police in the self-rule area of Gaza, Major General Naeef Yousef, listened to a sermon by Mahmoud Al Zahhar, a leading Hamas member, at the Al Rahmah Mosque.

"Now he is doing the natural thing by praying here, and Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre) has to treat all Palestinians equally," Sheikh Zahhar told Reuters after the weekly noon prayer.

Mr. Arafat's move came two days after he summoned Mr. Zahhar and another Hamas leader for the first official meeting since he returned to take permanent residence in Gaza in July.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China vice premier to visit Israel

BEIJING (R) — China said on Friday that Vice Premier Zou Jiahua would visit Israel next month, the highest ranking official to go there since diplomatic relations were established in January, 1992. The Xinhua news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Mr. Zou will visit Israel, Portugal and Denmark from Oct. 4 to 18. It gave no more details. Chinese customs figures show trade with Israel in the first seven months of 1994 at \$116.81 million, an increase of 85.7 per cent over the same 1993 period.

10 hurt in Tel Aviv bank blaze

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A fire on the third floor of a bank headquarters in the heart of Tel Aviv left a woman seriously burned and another nine people injured on Friday, the authorities said. The blaze started in a canteen where building work was underway, said deputy fire chief Eytan Cohen. It took two hours to bring the fire under control and huge traffic jams built up after the fire brigade sealed off the area. The woman suffered 30 per cent burns but most were affected by smoke inhalation.

Spain court formally accuses Kassar

MADRID (R) — Spain's high court has formally accused Syrian Monarch Al Kassar of piracy in connection with the 1985 hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro, during which an elderly American was killed. In a written report on a year-long investigation into Mr. Kassar's alleged involvement in the hijacking, published on Wednesday, the deputy prosecutor demanded 29 years in jail for the Syrian, said to be one of the world's most important arms dealers. This is the first time since his 1992 arrest in Spain on arms-related charges that Mr. Kassar, who is currently free on bail, has been formally linked to the Achille Lauro hijacking. The report goes forward to a high court judge who decides if and when a case should come to trial. The deputy prosecutor accused Mr. Kassar of financing the hijacking, which was carried out by Palestinian guerrillas.

Thai ex-police chief assails time

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's former national police chief, Sawasdi Amornvivat, filed a police complaint Friday accusing Time magazine of defamation. A police spokesman said the complaint cited the magazine, its editor and the writer of an article in Time's Sept. 19 issue on the disappearance of millions of dollars in jewels belonging to a Saudi prince. A police investigation will be conducted into the complaint, and if evidence is deemed sufficient, the case will be sent to court for prosecution, the spokesman said.

Iran builds bridge to Nakhichevan

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has built a new bridge to the autonomous Azeri territory of Nakhichevan over the bordering Araks River, officials said Friday. A first group of Iranians and residents of Nakhichevan crossed the Poldasht Bridge after a ceremony earlier this week attended by officials from both sides, they said. Poldasht is the second crossing point between Iran and Nakhichevan, which is a part of Azerbaijan but sandwiched between Iran, Turkey and Armenia. Previously the city of Jolfa, 130 kilometres from Tabriz in Iran's East Azerbaijan province, had been the main link along the 170-kilometre border. Under a bilateral agreement, citizens of the two countries can cross and enter up to 45 kilometres without a visa on Saturdays and Sundays, and stay for 15 days. With an area of 5,500 square kilometres Nakhichevan has a population of more than 270,000, mainly Shiite Muslims, like the majority in Iran.

Haaretz goes to court in bid to name spy chiefs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli newspaper has gone to court in a bid to break censorship on naming the heads of the country's international and external intelligence agencies. Haaretz reporter Yossi Melman petitioned the high court Thursday claiming there was no sensible reason for the ban. He pointed out that the names of the chiefs of the General Security Service (Shin Beth) and Mossad have been published throughout the world. Mr. Melman said he decided to bring the test case after the ubiquitous military censor removed the names from an article he wrote for the Sept. 8 edition of the Hebrew-language newspaper. "This is reminiscent of the restriction of information by totalitarian states in which the regime keeps information from its citizens," the petition said.

Libyans hold Greek ferry, 80 crewmembers

ATHENS (AP) — Libyan authorities have seized a Greek ferry boat and are holding its 80 crewmembers on charges that the ship had originally been built for an Israeli company, the Merchant Marine Ministry said Friday. The 1,612-ton Greek-flag Vergina was seized in the port of Tripoli on Sept. 11 after its owner, Stability Maritime Inc. of Liberia, chartered it to a Libyan company. Libyan authorities were said to be preparing to confiscate the ship after putting its Greek captain on trial. All the crewmembers except two are Greek. "The official explanation that is being pronounced by the Libyan authorities is that the ship has been described by Arab countries as being 'undesirable' because it was built in 1964 for Israeli interests," the Merchant Marine Ministry said. But the ministry added that the ship was formerly called the "Saudi Moon," flew the Saudi flag and was owned by Saudi Arabians. The announcement said the ministry was working with the foreign ministry to resolve the problem.

Peace is gaining ground in Mideast, says Pelletreau

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "The Middle East remains a complicated, and in many ways a dangerous neighbourhood, but it is a place where peace is gaining ground," Robert H. Pelletreau, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, said last week.

In remarks on recent developments in the Middle East at a town meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, sponsored by the Charlotte World Affairs Council, Mr. Pelletreau said: "The prospects for broader peace between Israel and its neighbours as well as for meaningful cooperation between the United States and the Gulf states, have never been brighter."

The United States is "committed to making the most of our opportunities in the Middle East, and steadily transforming what has been an area of turbulence and conflict into one of peace and co-existence," he said.

Mr. Pelletreau cautioned that while there has been much progress in the peace negotiations, "a great deal of work remains to be done to consolidate existing agreements and expand them into a more comprehensive peace."

Following are excerpts from Mr. Pelletreau's remarks:

In this often tumultuous region, American interests have remained relatively constant. They include:

- Securing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and all Arab parties with which she is not yet at peace.
- Maintaining our steadfast commitment to Israel's security and well-being.
- Building and maintaining security arrangements that assure stability and un-

impeded commercial access to the petroleum reserves of the Arabian Peninsula that are vital to our economic prosperity.

— Ensuring fair access for American business to commercial opportunities in the region.

— Countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the systems to deliver them, and combating terrorism.

— Prompting more open political and economic systems, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Let me briefly review with you the recent historic progress in the peace process.

Virtually continuous negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis have now brought Palestinian self-government in Gaza and Jericho and sectoral empowerment in other areas of the West Bank. Seeing Mr. Arafat preside over the beginning of this Palestinian school year all must admit is a positive image shift from the past. Serious discussions on the organising of elections in Palestinian self-governing areas are beginning. Difficulties the Palestinians face in establishing institutions and absorbing outside assistance should not obscure the real progress that is being made.

On July 25, President Clinton hosted another breakthrough event in the peace process on the south lawn, when King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin signed the Washington Declaration, drawing to a close Jordan's and Israel's 46-year state of belligerence. The declaration is a positive, forward-looking document, committing the Jordanians and Israelis to work toward a treaty of peace.

The Israel-Jordanian negotiations also yielded an agree-

ment to open a border crossing between the Israeli town of Eilat and the Jordanian port city of Aqaba. I accompanied Secretary of State Christopher to the border opening ceremony.

Let me share with you the scene. Large crowds of Jordanians and Israelis gathered for the event and the deep emotion on both sides was evident as veterans embraced and Crown Prince Hassan quoted the scriptures in Hebrew. Later, as King Hussein's yacht with leaders of both countries on board crossed into Israeli waters for the first time, a flotilla of Israeli boats was on hand to greet the event with cheers, blaring horns, and waving flags. As this was happening, a Spanish tour group was already crossing through the newly opened border posts.

Further northward, it is significant that President Hafez Al Assad has taken no steps to disrupt the growing Palestinian and Jordanian co-existence with Israel. Instead, Syrians were viewing directly on their TV sets the Jordanian-Israeli meetings in Washington, Aqaba-Eilat, and the Dead Sea hotels. In this July's Army Day speech, Assad spoke of "peace with honour," and two weeks ago he outlined to the Syrian Peoples Assembly a strategy of peace based on normalisation of relations with Israel. Since the end of April, Secretary Christopher has been engaged in shuttle diplomacy to narrow the issue of withdrawal, peace and security — and the timing and interlacing of their component parts. The gaps are wide and the bargaining is hard, as one would expect, but both leaders want the effort to continue and neither is shrinking from the process of engagement.

Armed struggle needed to free disputed provinces — Yemeni group

SANAA (Agencies) — A newly-formed group has called for an armed struggle to liberate two provinces claimed by Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The National Front for the Liberation of Najran and Assir provinces, announcing its creation in a statement dated from Abha in southern Saudi Arabia and sent to AFP here, called for "an armed struggle" to free these territories.

It urged "men enamoured of peace and human rights organisations to support the sons of the Yemeni people in Najran and Assir in their just struggle for independence and liberation from the hegemony of the Al Saud regime."

The movement "is committed to fight with all means to end the Saudi occupation of the provinces" taken from Yemen, the statement said.

The statement did not refer to Jizan province, which with Najran and Assir, is the focus of a border dispute between Sanaa and Riyadh.

The three provinces are currently controlled by the Saudi government under the 1934 Taif accord signed by both capitals.

Sanaa, which claims these provinces as its own, said that the accord expired in September 1992 and is opposed to it being renewed.

A series of meetings in the last two years between experts from both sides has failed to resolve the problem.

Relations between the two neighbours, which had been tense since the 1991 Gulf war, took a turn for the worse with Saudi Arabia's alleged support for the southern separatists in the May-July civil war in Yemen.

Arms ship in Red Sea

A Danish cargo ship carrying weapons from South Africa wandered around the Red Sea Wednesday for the third day after Yemeni authorities refused to allow it to dock, officials here said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Arkis Pioneer, identified by Lloyd's of London as a 2,815-tonne bulk carrier, was turned away when it tried to enter the port of Hodeidah Monday.

"Yemen did not ask for that shipment of weapons, and Yemen sternly refuses to deal with ships carrying arms shipments from South Africa which was under international sanctions," said one of the officials.

They said the Arkis Pioneer was "still there in the Red Sea waiting for instructions" from its agents or owners.

The shipment from South Africa's Armscor company of Pretoria contained mostly Russian-made AK-47 rifles, company spokesman Bertus Cilliers told the Citizen newspaper of Johannesburg Tuesday.

Armscor said the arms were destined for Lebanon, but gave no details.

South Africa's Rapport newspaper reported that the weapons were being sold to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a clandestine deal.

But the thousands of PLO fighters once based in Yemen all left earlier this year to return to the Gaza Strip and Jericho after Yasser Arafat set up the Palestinian self-rule authority there.

Officials here denied that Yemen had ordered the weapons or that they were destined for PLO guerrillas in Yemen.

Agents for the London-based Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit, which monitors shipping around the world, said the Arkis Pioneer sailed from Port Elizabeth Aug. 25.

"They said they did not know if the ship was carrying arms and had no other details on its movements."

Torben Palte Hansen of the Copenhagen-based Elite Shipping Co., said the freighter's cargo was destined for what was formerly the Ye-

men Economic Military Co.

The Danish Jyllands-Posten daily said this company imports hardware and food for resale in South-East Asia.

The Yemeni officials said that was incorrect, but noted that the enterprise, now renamed the Yemen Economic Co., imports hardware, food and other commodities, including uniforms and boots, for Yemen's armed forces.

The company's agents said Tuesday that they were checking with the South African defence ministry to find out what they wanted them to do with the cargo and whether they wanted it back.

Jyllands-Posten reported that Elite Shipping belongs to several Danish shipping companies which have often been linked to the international arms trade.

Moldovan deal

The Moldovan authorities admitted Wednesday they had sold four MiG-29s to South Yemen in June during the Yemeni war. ITAR-TASS reported.

The vice-president of the Moldovan parliament, Nikolai Andronik, admitted that these planes, which Moldova inherited from the former Soviet Union, were sold to Aden.

Moldova did not need these fighters but it did need money for its economic reforms, Mr. Andronik said, stressing that "all countries sell weapons, including our neighbours."

Mr. Andronik did not say how much the aircraft had been sold for, but according to Moldovan press reports the sale of the four MiG-29s and seven multiple rocket launchers earned the former Soviet republic some \$40 million.

The sale took place when the former Soviet ally for 25 years until the two Yemens reunited in 1990, was fighting the separatist war against the North, which the North won in July.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile

17:11 Gossamer

17:30 Le Monde Sans Martin

18:30 News in French

18:45 Ushuaia

19:00 News in Hebrew

19:30 Top Quality Produce From Jordan

20:00 News in Arabic

21:30 The Campbells

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film: "How To Murder Your Wife"

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr

05:20 Sunrise

11:28 Dhuhr

14:56 Asr

17:57 Maghreb

18:54 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweitha Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 652536

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 661195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Weather will continue to be unstable and relatively warm with clouds appearing at different altitudes. There will be a chance of showers with winds variable, occasionally becoming northerly moderate to strong. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with a chance of showers, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 20 / 34

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070

Dr. Jamal Ja'fari 796460

First pharmacy 661912

Fordsons pharmacy 773336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairokh-pharmacy 626762

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644045

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Zakaria Malkawi 218620

Alqada pharmacy (—)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ZARQA:

Dr. Mufid Daura 985522

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence: Immediate Response 630341

Civil Defence: Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 84342

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 784111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

Amman:

Naseeh Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malheur, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4

Shamsi 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musabir Hospital 66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6

Army, Marka 891611/15

Qasbi Alia Hospital 602400/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

1500 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 16290

1725 Istanbul (RJ) 18225

Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) 00272555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Hayn Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)

08:45 New Delhi (RJ)

09:15 Agaña (RJ)

09:15 Jeddah (RJ)

09:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:00 Colombo (RJ)

10:00 Beirut (RJ)

15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:30 Beirut (RJ)

17:25 Istanbul (RJ)

18:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Agaña (RJ)

11:00 Vienna (add) (RJ)

11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:35 Paris (RJ)

11:45 Istanbul (RJ)

11:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

12:45 Jeddah (RJ)

12:55 London (RJ)

13:30 Madrid (RJ)

19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

08:45 Larnaca (RJ)

20:30 Jeddah (RJ)

20:45 Damascus (RJ)

21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Beirut (ME)

12:50 Vienna (OS)

13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)

20:00 Sanaa (YV)

20:15 Cairo (MS)

18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)

19:59 Vienna (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

03:30 Vienna (OA)

12:30 Moscow, Doha (GF)

14:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)

19:00 Sanaa (YV)

19:20 Cairo (MS)

19:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)

22:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Agaña (RJ)

11:00 Vienna (add) (RJ)

11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:35 Paris (RJ)

11:45 Istanbul (RJ)

11:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

12:45 Jeddah (RJ)

12:55 London (RJ)

13:30 Madrid (RJ)

19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

08:45 Larnaca (RJ)

20:30 Jeddah (RJ)

20:45 Damascus (RJ)

21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Beirut (ME)

12:50 Vienna (OS)

13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)

20:00 Sanaa (YV)

20:15 Cairo (MS)

22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)

23:25 Amsterdam, Amsterdam (KL)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman: 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus: 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus: 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman: 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600 / 400

Banana 680

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Carrot 120 / 80

Cauliflower 240 / 170

Cucumber (large) 330 / 200

Cucumber (small) 260 / 200

Eggplant 280 / 180

Garlic 900 / 700

Grapes 500 / 300

Grapes (Hilwan) 850 / 500

Guava 250 / 180

Leemon 250 / 180

Marrow (large) 120 / 80

Marrow (small) 330 / 220

Mushroom 180 / 100

Onion (dry) 320 / 220

Onion (green) 300 / 200

Pepper (hot) 300 / 200

Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200

Potato 280 / 200

Pomegranate 280 / 200

Spinach 130 / 70

Tomato 800 / 500

String beans 800 / 500

Watermelon 200 / 100

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, congratulating him on his country's national day. The King wished the Saudi monarch continued good health and happiness and the Saudi people further progress and prosperity.

Parliament opening postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued postponing the opening of the second ordinary session of Parliament until Oct. 22, in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 78 of the Constitution.

A message via mime

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Flashes, a culmination of a second joint workshop between a team of Jordanian theatre professionals and students and a British theatre company, the Right Size, focused on improvisation, story-telling, self-creation, mime, movement, masks, music and physical comedy techniques in lieu of language to convey a message to the audience last week.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened the first of two shows, which was organised by the British Council, the Royal Cultural Centre, the performance included no complementary parts: he Jos Houben-Micheline and her show, which was essentially a lecture to prepare the audience for the coming performance, followed by the Jordanian performance, which was a presentation of six Arab folk-dances dealing with Dhuha, the additional, cunning and comic Arab character.

The main idea of this piece is careful theatre relied on stunts, each of which can only bear one meaning, their fear, stupidity, intelligence, love or confusion. Dancers gave their bodies different qualities, such as on, butter, rubber or animal.

In April 1993, the British Council decided to invite a mime group to Jordan to present a show for all nationalities. Ruth Hill, the assistant director of the British Council, told the Jordan Times.

"We contacted an advisors' committee in London which helped us in selecting the right size," Ms. Hill said. Six actors visited Jordan in 93, and after four workshops in which about 30 Jordanian actors participated, four of the British actors made "Flight to Find."

The production was successful and the Jordanian and

British actors alike found it very helpful, and "inspiring to their line of work," Ms. Hill said.

In response to the demand of Jordanian theatre professionals, the British Council in cooperation with the theatre programme of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) this year, invited the director of the Right Size, Jos Houben, and physiotherapist-turned-actress Micheline Vandelpoel back again to work extensively with selected Jordanian actors.

"Our distinguished style is motivated by clowns whose absurd sense of logic and continuing relish for the naive optimism create a world of inspired lunacy with slapstick, acrobatics, live music and eccentric dancing," Mrs. Vandelpoel told the Jordan Times.

In explaining the company's approach to theatrical coaching, Mr. Houben added, "People need to learn to work as a group, as a team. It helps them enlarge their physical abilities, so they can enrich their imagination. We do not teach people to do something, rather we teach them to do one thing in several ways."

Throughout Flashes' several continuous stories, the main character, Dhuha, tricks many people into believing that their money and their sheep are his. He convinces other people to throw their children into the sea in order to return with plenty of sheep. Discovering that their children never return, their grief turns to anger against Dhuha and they tie him to a tree in the desert, but his cunning nature helps him to cheat an old man into believing that it is a holy tree. So, he ties up the old man and makes off with his clothes and horse.

This year's joint production, which was well received by the audiences, was quite successful and encouraging, according to Mrs. Hill.

Jordan, PLO to resume ministerial level talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One of the immediate agreements reached during last week's talks between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Farouk Kadoumi was to resume "ministerial level" talks between the two sides and that this could happen before the end of this month, a senior PLO official said Friday.

Omar Khatib, acting head of the Palestinian embassy in Amman, said he expected to receive on Sunday a firm word on the dates of the meeting from the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

"The Palestinian delegation to the meeting will include at least seven ministers" of the self-rule authority, Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times. "The delegation will discuss all aspects of Jordanian cooperation and coordination in all spheres, with particular emphasis on economic relations."

Mr. Khatib said he did not expect Jordanian-Palestinian differences to block the finalisation of agreements in various fields of potential cooperation. "Agreements could be expected during this round of talks," he said.

Ministerial teams from both sides met last month in Amman and it was expected that the meetings would resume on Sept. 10. But, Mr. Khatib said, "internal problems" in Gaza and Jericho had delayed the meeting.

The PLO official said he expected the upcoming meeting to discuss a possible visit to Jordan of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO and president of the PNA.

Jordanian officials have said that Jordan was ready to welcome Mr. Arafat for high-level discussions, but the Palestinian leader has to come prepared to discuss all outstanding issues in depth with a view to not only reaching but also implementing agreements.

One of the key outstanding issues is an economic agreement. Jordan and the PLO drew up an accord in January after His Majesty King Hussein served an ultimatum on the PLO leadership to make up its mind whether to cooperate and coordinate with Jordan.

That accord was very broad without pinning down details or mechanisms for cooperation since the PLO had not reached an agreement on economic ties with Israel, which is effectively still in control of the West

Bank and Gaza Strip.

In April, the PLO and Israel signed an economic accord, which contained many overlapping with the January agreement signed with Jordan.

Subsequently, Jordan and the PLO drew up another accord as a follow-up to the January agreement and included in it detailed mechanisms for Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in banking and monetary affairs and trade.

However, buoyed by what it saw as Israeli "concessions" that the organisation secured in the April accord with the Jewish state, the PLO leadership stalled over the agreement with Jordan to the extent that some Jordanian officials describe the status of institutionalised Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations as sub-zero.

There is no indication that Mr. Arafat, who is seeking all trimmings of Palestinian statehood including a monetary authority and currency, is ready to drop his objections to some of the provisions in the accord reached with Jordan.

These include Jordanian licensing and supervision of all commercial banks in the occupied territories since the

Jordanian dinar is designated as the "main currency" in circulation there and the opening of an account by the PNA at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to channel international aid to the self-rule areas.

After Wednesday's talks with Mr. Majali, Mr. Kadoumi said Jordanian and Palestinian economies complemented each other and as such there should not be any obstacle to finalising the economic agreement.

Apart from political differences, some PLO officials accused Jordan of trying to bypass the PLO when the Kingdom signed an agreement with Israel in August providing for the export of \$30 million of Jordanian goods to the West Bank excluding the self-rule areas.

Jordan countered this accusation by pointing out that without Israeli agreement it would be impossible for anyone to export anything to the occupied territories and that the agreement was very much in line with the economic accord reached with the PLO.

Despite the agreement, the Israeli authorities have not issued any licence to Palestinian traders for imports from Jordan. "A few have applied

for licences but they have not received any response from the Israeli authorities," said a senior official.

According to the official, Jordanian exporters had sent samples of their products to the Israeli "quality control" authorities and had received approval of the standard and quality of the products — a prior condition for imports to Israel and the occupied territories.

On the other hand, the PNA is reportedly discouraging Palestinian importers from seeking licences for imports from Jordan, other sources said.

"It seems that Palestinian businessmen have been told not to bother to apply for licences for imports from Jordan since they won't be allowed in anyway," said one source.

The issue of trade and means to facilitate Jordanian exports to the self-rule areas as well as other parts of the West Bank are expected to figure high in the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian meeting.

In addition, many other proposals were made to the Palestinian side during the last meeting," said a senior official. "They (the Palestinian side) are expected to

provide their response to those proposals during the next meeting."

Jordan is also looking forward to Palestinian ideas on coordination ahead of a planned four-party meeting grouping the Kingdom, the PNA, Israel and Egypt to discuss the fate of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war.

Jordan initially refused to endorse the idea of such a meeting since the Kingdom was not a party to agreeing to the forum, one of the stipulations in the Oslo accords reached between Israel and the PLO.

However, the Kingdom decided to drop its objections since it believed that it should attend "any meeting that would discuss the issue of displaced people and attended by Israel" and because the issue of displaced persons is being dealt with in the bilateral level with Israel as well as in the multilateral phase of Middle East peace negotiations.

"The minimum level of coordination that we expect from the Palestinian side is in terms of unifying data," said a senior official. "It will be ridiculous for Jordan and the Palestinians to present differing figures and data during talks with Israel."

3-day Arab engineers seminar to include environment focus

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Engineers Federation (AEF), in cooperation with the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), is organising a three-day seminar in Amman Saturday to prepare for the 20th Arab Engineers Conference due to be held in Khartoum next March, according to Rawhi Sharif, head of a preparatory committee.

Dr. Sharif said the meeting, which will be held under

the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is expected to hear Jordanian working papers among the 24 papers presented by the various participating Arab countries.

One such paper is expected to deal with ways of safeguarding the environment and the safe disposal of waste from factories, said Dr. Sharif who added that the conference in Khartoum will have as its theme: research,

development and scientific creativity in the Arab World in meeting technological challenges.

Dr. Sharif said researchers from the University of Jordan, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company, the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) as well as the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre will take part in the meetings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY AND CONCERT

- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Spanish film entitled "Bodas De Sangre" at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 610858).

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Where Did The Old Testament Come From: Is it from the Arabian Peninsula Or From Where?" by Mr. Farjallah Dib of Lebanon at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).

Special educators underscore importance of early detection of learning disabilities

By Rima Cortbawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Special educators favour the term "learning difficulties" (LD) in describing problems faced by individuals who suffer from what has previously been suitably known as "learning disabilities."

Special education, the dynamic discipline of handling LDs, has in the past 20 years or so, witnessed remarkable advances in theories, diagnosis and teaching strategies, "so much so that earlier labelling of the under privileged in academic assessment as failures has become a discriminatory act of injustice," said Abia Zreikat, director of the New English School (NES).

LDs can be the result of perceptual shortcomings, disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding, using language (in speaking or writing) or doing mathematical calculations, according to NES Education Counsellor Yumna Abu Hassan. They can also be caused by brain injuries, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia (difficulty with words) and developmental aphasia (speech loss).

"Also, among the common characteristics of LD are: disorders of attention like hyperactivity, poor concentration and distractibility, development of weak cognitive strategies, neurological dysfunction, special problems, inappropriate social behaviour, and in rare cases poor motor abilities (like general coordination and balance)," said Hana

Malhas, head of Al Mashreq School.

It is unfeasible to establish a single definition of LDs, however, as the associated problems are highly individual. "Each condition requires a different definition and adaptive flexible solutions are needed," said Mrs. Malhas.

"One thing is commonly known; these LDs do not by any means reflect a low IQ," said Mrs. Zreikat. In fact, published information reveals that a large number of achievers and prominent characters such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Nelson Rockefeller had severe LDs. As children, these ingenious people met tremendous complications in coping at school and were considered "abnormal" as a result of their low standard of academic achievement.

But, these prodigies were able to overcome their problems successfully. Others may not be that fortunate.

"That leaves the problem in the hands of parents and educators who should recognize a child's difficulties in time to seek professional help, rather than avoid the issue by choosing the lazy approach of labelling the student 'incapable' or 'stupid'," said Mrs. Malhas.

LDs can normally be identified when a student shows severe discrepancy between achievement and potential (in either one or more of the basic reading, writing, listening, expression or mathematical skills) or uneven irregular development of some of the various components of

mental ability," said Miss Abu Hassan.

Although brain injury is hypothesised to originate either before, during or after birth, according to Mrs. Malhas, in many children LDs become apparent when they enter school and fail academically. "Then as curriculum becomes more difficult, other problems emerge. These can be of an emotional or social nature, causing self-consciousness and low self-esteem in some students," said Mrs. Malhas.

"Sometimes during adolescence, counseling and special guidance becomes necessary," Mrs. Zreikat explained.

As a adulthood approaches, after schooling is terminated, some conditions are remarkably ameliorated to the extent that problems no longer affect any aspect of the adult's life, according to Mrs. Malhas. Other people, however, experience limitations in career development and hindered social activities as a result of the continuation of the LD.

Thus, as in the case of scotopic sensitivity syndrome (SSS), which is a form of LD caused by visual perceptual problems, early diagnosis of LD conditions is both educationally and psychologically favourable.

"Dealing with the LD at the earliest stages spares students from suffering any feelings of inadequacy or inferiority," said Miss Abu Hassan.

SSS symptoms include slow reading, short attention span, poor handwriting, difficulty with spacing

and organisation, headaches, some irritations of the eye and light sensitivity, according to Hala Ibrahim, Jordan's sole Irlen diagnostician. (The title is named after Helen Irlen who discovered SSS).

"Almost half of the LD students have SSS, and 12% of normal readers suffer from SSS, which may be present on its own or in association with other forms of LD," said Mrs. Ibrahim.

One method of helping individuals to cope with SSS is to prescribe suitable coloured glasses, which can have a certain colour or a combination of colours.

"The process of finding the right colours can take 3 to 4 hours, but it does solve SSS reading problems and often reduces headaches. Other LDs can also have different ways to overcome once particular cases are identified," said Mrs. Ibrahim.

With this growing awareness of LD complexities, more schools in Amman are directing efforts to accommodate special students so that they can get their rightful share of education without tremendous hardship.

The Abdel Hameed Sharaf School was the first to start special education in 1980, but, soon after, others, like the Amman National, Al-Manshi and Al-Mashreq schools followed suit. This year the NES and Amman Baccalaureate School are starting their own special education programmes," said Mrs. Malhas.

Traditional techniques to solve LD problems involve the "pull-out" system, in

which special students are taken out of their class to be helped individually by a special educator working in full cooperation with the parents who should totally approve, in order to fulfill a plan for the child's long and short term development. "Once the students learn how to utilise their strong points in coping with a regular class, they would be allowed to join their classes having caught up with what they missed in education," said Mrs. Malhas.

However, contemporary comprehensive solutions involve modifying teaching techniques to provide for the special needs of different students in a class without resorting to the pull-out system. "This is the long-term solution that we are currently working hard to implement. Qualified teachers must have total command of appropriate tools to cater to all students with special needs, by varying teaching methods and adapting evaluation techniques to allow the fair assessment of LD students," said Mrs. Malhas.

"Modern teaching techniques now focus on the learner rather than the teacher as the centre of the education process," said Miss Abu Hassan. Thus LDs can be alleviated.

"They are not usually cured, but by adjusting teaching strategies to facilitate education in spite of a particular problem, LDs can no longer lie as stumbling blocks in the way of learning."

UNRWA advisory commission concerned over agency deficit

AMMAN (Petra) — The advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is deeply concerned about the deficit in the agency's 1994 budget, estimated at \$43 million, said Asem Ghosheh, director general of the Palestine Affairs Department Friday.

Speaking upon his return from the commission's meetings in Vienna to review the agency's operations and general report to the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Ghosheh said the commission members demanded that everything possible should be done to raise more donations for UNRWA's operations and services.

The agency's 1994 budget is estimated at \$632.4 million, according to the draft report to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly. Mr. Ghosheh, who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting in Vienna, said that the commission appreciated the services offered to Palestine refugees by the Arab host countries, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, commended the agency's short term projects in these countries and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The commission also backed the Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and Israel as a positive step towards the attainment of a comprehensive settlement.

Mr. Ghosheh said.

He said the commission



Child being examined at an UNRWA clinic in Jordan (File photo)

hoped that the progress in the peace talks would reflect positively on the living conditions of the Palestinian people and on the agency's ability to offer them better services.

In its final statement, the commission said it hoped that various U.N. agencies and

the World Bank would back UNRWA's efforts towards improving the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands, stressing that the agency's services are vital for the Palestinians in the agency's fields of operation.

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Indian plague kills over 100

SURAT, India (R) — Pneumonic plague has killed more than 100 people in the western Indian city of Surat and many more are battling for life, doctors and officials said Friday.

Tens of thousands of panic-stricken people were trying to flee the city, 270 kilometres north of Bombay.

"We are worried about the possibility of its spread. It is now confirmed that the disease is pneumonic plague," said N.D. Ghasure, a senior health official in Surat.

Doctors at the main hospital, where nearly 100 patients were being treated, said that some were responding to treatment but at least 80 were in "semi-critical" condition.

"These patients could be saved if they respond to treatment," said one.

The plague hit the city of two million people a week ago and the first deaths were reported three days later.

"Our estimate is that more than 100 people have died," said a private doctor who

asked not to be named.

The railway and bus stations were crammed with fleeing people, most of them residents of Ved Road and Katargam, the two shanty areas worst hit by the plague.

Most people stayed indoors and those fleeing or moving in the streets covered their faces with cloth, handkerchiefs or doctors' masks.

"People are scared. It is a very virulent and fatal disease. It kills the tissues of the lungs of the affected patients in a very short time," Dr. Ghasure said.

"Patients come walking and within minutes they collapse and die," said Parvez Sheikh, a private doctor.

Outside the main hospital, grief-stricken relatives of the victims waited anxiously. No one was allowed to enter the isolation ward where the patients were being treated.

Hospital doctors complained of the shortage of medicines but government officials denied there was any lack of life-saving antibiotic

drugs.

I. Chaudhury, a senior Health Ministry official, said in New Delhi that there was enough tetracycline and streptomycin in the Surat region to treat people who contracted the plague. "They are well stocked and we are going to augment the stocks," Mr. Chaudhury told Reuters.

A top ministry official, A.K. Mukherjee, said a team of government experts had been rushed to Surat to take blood and sputum samples to determine the nature of the disease.

"The symptoms suggest pneumonic plague," he said, adding that the government would await the team's findings before making a definitive statement.

An outbreak of bubonic plague — the black death of medieval Europe — in a area of Maharashtra state west of Bombay was under control," Mr. Mukherjee said.

A total of 81 people had contracted bubonic plague in a 15-kilometre radius around

the town of Mamla, in an area struck a year ago by India's worst earthquake for half a century. But none had died.

"There is no panic. There is no problem. We are very comfortable," Mr. Mukherjee said.

Several hundred government workers were spraying the chemicals BHC and Deltamethrin to kill fleas which after biting infected rats carry bubonic plague, he said.

A senior medical official in Surat said the plague there could have come from Maharashtra, which borders the state of Gujarat in which Surat lies.

"There is a large floating population in Surat. There are several workers from Latur, last year's earthquake-affected area," he said.

Health authorities in Bombay and other parts of western India were on alert Friday to check the outbreak of the pneumonic plague, news reports said.



MOSCOW PROTESTS: Pro-Communist supporters picket the Russian White House building in Moscow Friday. The demonstrators gather here every day marking the anniversary of last year's power struggle between President Boris Yeltsin and the parliament which led to a bloody battle in October. (The poster reads: "No forgiveness to the murderers of Russian people") (AFP photo)

Police caught looting in Papua New Guinea's volcano-hit town

RABAU, Papua New Guinea (R) — Two Papua New Guinea police officers were arrested for looting Friday as authorities struggled to restore law and order in the near-deserted town of Rabaul — half-buried in volcanic ash after five days of volcanic eruptions.

Looters have been rifling through shops and homes since the town was evacuated early Monday after the eruptions of volcanoes Vulcan and Tavurvur on either side of Rabaul. They continue to blow clouds of white and black smoke.

Up to 100 armed policemen were moved into the town in the east of New Britain Island Thursday, with

orders to shoot looters who ignored warnings.

Built a source in the security forces said there was also concern about police looting. On Friday, the source said, two policemen were arrested with a van laden with stolen goods.

Leith Anderson, director-general of the National Disaster and Emergency Services, said a court would be set up in the nearby village of Kokopo to deal with thieves.

"While it is not accepted, we understand that some people are trying to get food but there is also a lot of stealing of other goods," Mr. Anderson told Reuters.

"No one, absolutely no

one, will be allowed to get away with this and we are rounding them all up."

Mr. Anderson described the eruption as the country's worst disaster and said relief operations would continue for months.

The looting was first reported by residents venturing back into Rabaul, despite the continuing volcanic activity, to assess the damage and recover possessions. They had left empty-handed, with no warning given before the evacuation.

Defence Minister Mathias Ijape told Reuters another 350 soldiers would be drafted into Rabaul over the weekend.

IAEA urges action on nuclear smugglers

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Friday called for action to stem nuclear smuggling.

At their general conference in Vienna, member states of the U.N. nuclear watchdog expressed "deep concern" over the problem and passed a resolution calling on member states to "take all necessary measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear material."

The IAEA said in a statement the resolution also called for closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation to overcome the threat of the underground nuclear market.

The resolution invites IAEA Director General Hans Blix to take action to improve agency backup for members in controlling nuclear stockpiles, help analyse illicit material and boost safety measures.

Germany, hit by four nuclear smuggling cases between May and August, introduced the resolution on behalf of the European Union. It holds the rotating EU presidency.

Earlier this week German Minister Gerhard Ziller said the agency should act quickly to help member states tighten up controls of radioactive materials, saying nuclear smuggling was "a challenge to the international system of non-proliferation."

India blasts sale of French submarines, missiles to Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India Friday assailed the sale of French submarines and missile systems to its arch-rival Pakistan, saying the deal would fan military tensions in the sub-continent.

"The French deal will seriously affect the equilibrium and security, and raise tensions in the neighbourhood," Foreign Secretary Krishnaswami said in a statement to the press.

He said Paris had told New Delhi that the billion-dollar agreement to supply three French submarines and a batch of high-technology anti-ship missiles to Pakistan was just a commercial deal.

France said the submarines would serve as replacements for obsolete Daphne-class vessels possessed by Pakistan, and believed that the sale would not affect the security environment in South Asia, Mr. Srinivasan said.

France was "ready and keen" to sign a similar agreement with India, the senior

foreign service official said, contradicting Pakistani assertions that Paris would not sell the same submarines and weapons to New Delhi.

India, however, did not agree with the French assessment that the deal would not adversely affect existing military equations, and had had told France previously of its concern at the adverse impact of arms supplies in the region.

Mr. Srinivasan also said the international community should impose "penalties" on Pakistan for clandestinely procuring nuclear material and technology, an allegation denied by Islamabad.

Under the deal clinched Wednesday during French Defence Minister Francois Leotard's visit to Pakistan, France will deliver three Agosta 90-B submarines and an undisclosed number of SM-39 missiles.

It will be the first time that France will export the SM-39 — the successor to the Exocet missile used in the 1982 Falklands War.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent's independence from British rule in 1947, and their relations have been plagued by mutual mistrust and suspicions over each other's nuclear programmes.

Their chief bone of contention is the Himalayan state of Kashmir, held in part by the two countries. India-Pakistan tensions have increased since Muslim guerrillas in the Indian zone launched a violent secessionist struggle in 1989.

Pakistan is interested in buying 40 Mirage 2000-5 fighter-bombers from France, Mr. Leotard said after a meeting in Islamabad with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Ms. Bhutto spoke of Pakistan's "urgent need" for the planes and was anxious to visit Paris in the next few weeks to discuss details of the deal, believed to be worth about \$2 billion. Mr. Leotard said after the meeting Thursday, which lasted more than one hour.

Dutchman hanged in Singapore for drug trafficking

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singapore hanged a 59-year-old Dutch engineer for drug trafficking here Friday after rejecting 11th hour appeals for clemency from the Netherlands, which said it was appalled by the execution.

Joannes Van Damme was the first European sent to the gallows here for heroin trafficking, an offence that carries a mandatory death sentence, a Singapore official said.

A total of 78 others, mostly Singaporeans, Malaysians and other Asian offenders were hanged before him.

The Dutchman prayed with a local pastor before being led to the execution chamber in Singapore's high-security Changi Prison shortly before dawn.

A prison source said that the hanging was over by 5:30 a.m. (23:30 GMT).

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Meirlo said his government was "greatly disappointed and appalled" by the execution which came despite a last-ditch attempt to save Mr. Van Damme, arrested in 1991 with 4.3 kilograms (9.6 pounds) of heroin in a false-bottomed suitcase.

But Mr. Van Meirlo said in a statement released here that his government's opposition to the hanging was based on its objection in principle to the death penalty, not because it thought the local judicial process was flawed.

"The (Dutch) government ascertained that the proceedings against Mr. Van Damme were conducted correctly and fairly. There is therefore no question of the Netherlands criticising the judicial process in Singapore," he said.

Disclosures in the Netherlands that Mr. Van Damme had passed information on a Nigerian fraud case to Dutch intelligence raised a glimmer of hope that the execution might be delayed.

But this was dashed Thursday when Singapore told his lawyer and Mr. Van Meirlo that no stay would be allowed.

A Foreign Ministry statement later said Queen Beatrix had pleaded for a pardon "on humanitarian grounds" in a letter sent on July 8 to Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong. The request was turned down four days later.

The Dutch press unanimously condemned what it called the inflexibility of the Singapore government and the cruelty of its courts.

The Protestant daily Trouw said the Netherlands should work for a worldwide abolition of the death sentence. The mass circulation De Telegraaf expressed indignation over the "tragic end" but conceded that Mr. Van Damme had had an "honest trial" and that diplomatic sanctions against Singapore would be unwarranted.

Mr. Van Meirlo said the administration had taken heart "from the reaction of thousands of Dutch citizens who had responded to an appeal by Amnesty International" for the death sentence to be cancelled.

Mr. Van Damme's body was taken out of the prison through a private exit by a local casket company vehicle, embassy officials said.

Perez de Cuellar to run for president of Peru

LIMA (AFP) — After months of speculation and an unofficial campaign swing, former U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has announced he will run for president of Peru.

The 74-year-old Lima native, with his wife Marcela Temple at his side, said he would stand in the April 9, 1995 election as an independent.

"I owe everything I am to Peru," he told supporters at a Lima hotel. "I don't think I have the right to refuse to serve it one more time."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said his platform would focus on a market-oriented economic programme and policies aimed at reducing poverty, ending terrorism and respecting the separation of powers between Peru's government institutions.

President Alberto Fujimori is widely expected to seek a second five-year term in

office, but has not yet announced his candidacy officially.

Mr. Fujimori's wife, Susana Higuchi, announced this month she was forming her own party to run for president in May, but Congress — led by her husband's allies — has passed a law banning the president's relatives from seeking office.

Mrs. Higuchi said Thursday she will appeal to the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to make sure she is not denied the right to run.

A nationwide survey taken to Apoyo released last Sunday gave Mr. Perez de Cuellar a likely 24 per cent of the vote, but Mr. Fujimori was the favourite with 44 per cent. The survey showed that on a second round, Mr. Fujimori would draw 50 per cent to Mr. Perez de Cuellar's 33 per cent.

Shots fired at helicopter of U.S. envoy in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Gunshots were fired at a group of helicopters, one of which carried U.S. ambassador to Colombia Myles Frechette, in the southern province of Cauca but no damages or injuries were reported, a military official said Thursday.

Colonel Idelfonso Maria Naranjo told the RCN Radio Network helicopters carrying Mr. Frechette and other U.S. land Colombian officials were planning to land near a captured drug processing laboratory deep in the jungle when they were fired upon.

The network said Marxist guerrillas were suspected in the attack.

The RCN Radio Network said the other helicopters carrying Mr. Frechette and a

visiting U.S. government official returned fire and managed to fly away.

Colombian Defence Minister Fernando Botero Zea was also flying with the ambassador.

"I wasn't frightened," Mr. Frechette later told a reporter of Noticias Del La Siete, one of the television news programmes.

"Fortunately we could count on a good pilot."

A police official told Reuters one helicopter carrying reporters and camera operators from two local television news programmes was shot three times but escaped major damage.

Noticias Del La Siete said the helicopter carrying one of its reporters and camera crew was hit four times in the tail but escaped major damage.

U.S. will avoid quick nuclear cuts — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, hedging against a possible collapse of democracy in Russia, said Thursday it will not press now for further immediate deep cuts in its nuclear arsenal.

Instead, Washington will concentrate on carrying out strategic reductions already negotiated with Moscow and will work toward joint assurances on safety and security of thousands of atomic warheads in the United States and Russia.

Defence Secretary William Perry told reporters at a news conference that he did not expect a reversal of democracy in Russia and other former Soviet states, but that Washington was "hedging" against that possibility.

Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch added that the Clinton administration's new nuclear policy did not envision immediate cuts beyond the strategic arsenals of 3,500 warheads planned for Washington and Moscow in 2003 under the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (START-2).

"Given the pace at which the Russians are bringing down their actual warheads, we believe that it would not be prudent to commit now to a reduction below START-2 levels," Mr. Deutch told reporters.

Other defence officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters earlier that

the United States would retain about 480 nuclear weapons in Europe to protect its allies and retained the option of "last resort" nuclear retaliation after a non-nuclear attack on U.S. forces.

Mr. Deutch said that the United States was removing the ability of aircraft carriers and other surface warships to carry or launch nuclear weapons but that submarines would retain the right to launch nuclear-tipped cruise Tomahawk cruise missiles as well as long-range missiles.

The steps are part of a cautious new nuclear policy pushed by the Pentagon and accepted by President Bill Clinton for the next decade while Washington measures the shaky progress of democracy in Russia and other former Soviet states.

Currently, the United States has about 6,000 long-range nuclear weapons. Some Clinton administration officials and arms control experts have pressed for even deeper cuts than those planned under START-2.

"But there's feeling that the status quo isn't bad because Russia and other former Soviet states still have about 25,000 strategic and tactical nukes," said one defence official.

"What if democratic reforms are reversed and those weapons are again turned against us?" the official said.

Nigeria's opposition 'under siege'

LAGOS (R) — Opponents of Nigeria's military rulers expressed concern Friday at the seizure of Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka's passport, saying it was fresh evidence of harassment of democracy campaigners.

Mr. Soyinka, the only Nigerian to have won a Nobel Prize, said security men seized his passport Thursday at Lagos Airport and stopped him leaving the country to lecture in Europe.

"I was on my way to give lectures in Germany and Sweden when they took away my passport," Mr. Soyinka, 60, told Reuters after the incident.

"We are worried over the illegal seizure," Segun Jegede, spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights said, adding: "This is further proof they want to cow opponents."

Earlier in the week, the home of Ayo Opaokun, secretary general of the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) opposition group his firebombed.

Last week, Boko Ransome-Kuti, president of the Campaign for Democracy (CD), was arrested and charged with writing threatening letters to oil companies operating in the country.

The moves follow a crackdown on strikes and riots to force military ruler General Sani Abacha to surrender power to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential election.

A two-month strike by workers in the oil industry, Nigeria's economic backbone, failed to secure Mr. Abiola's release and he remains in detention and on trial for declaring himself president.

Since the end of the strike the government has strengthened itself with tough decrees allowing detentions without trial.

Mr. Soyinka was the 1986 Nobel literature laureate.

Bavaria's CDU tipped for new win despite scandals

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Bavaria's ruling right-wing Christian Social Union is expected to win again Sunday in a vote for regional lawmakers after riding out a series of scandals even members feared might spell its doom.

The vote in Germany's wealthiest state is being watched closely since it is the last major poll before German general elections on Oct. 16.

Only last winter, political commentators in Munich, the Bavarian state capital, confidently announced that the unbroken 37-year reign of the CSU — the Bavarian branch of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats — over Bavarian politics was over.

Several corruption scandals and the death in 1988 of the tough legendary party head Franz Josef Strauss, nicknamed the "Bavarian bull," unleashed internal battles that threatened party unity. Two key officials, including former State President Max Streibl, were forced to resign in less than a year and the party slumped to new lows in opinion polls.

But the tide turned last June with the European elec-

tions in which the CSU won nearly 50 per cent, crushing the main opposition Social Democratic Party — which took only 23.7 per cent — to everyone's surprise.

The latest opinion poll by the Basic Research Institute gives it a clear 52 per cent victory in Sunday's vote, in which Bavaria's 8.7 million voters will choose from 15 parties.

The big Munich daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung has dubbed the spectacular turnaround the "Bavarian miracle." State President Edmund Stoiber — whose party clean-up campaign is credited with restoring the CSU image — says the success is due to Bavaria's "economic miracle."

Several thousand supporters of the CSU, the party of Federal Finance Minister Theo Waigel, turned out here Thursday night for a final rally to hear Mr. Stoiber extol the region's assets.

"Of all Germany's unemployment rate is well below the 9.1 average in West Germany. Coupled with other favourable economic indicators, Bavaria — better than

other regions — has staved off the effects of recession. He told the crowd that "in four decades, the CSU has changed Bavaria from farmland to a high technology zone, without losing its heart."

In the highly conservative CSU language, this means it has upheld traditional values of family and work while fighting abortion and what the party calls "abusing the right to asylum."

In the countryside, the CSU benefits from active support of the influential Catholic clergy and draws on German symbols, holding rallies under traditional "beer tents" while folk orchestras play German tunes. Few there seemed bothered by the party scandals.

Among CSU critics, Christian Magerl of the Green party said Bavaria was "run like certain South American states where corruption is part of the system and where many people feel a permanent inability to make a personal profit (from power) won't be able to do anything for us either."

The CSU is the sole exclu-

sively regional party also to play a role in Bonn, as a partner in the ruling coalition.

The weekly Die Zeit has likened it to the federalist Northern League in Italy, saying "the party draws its identity from the region and the region from the party. This engenders patronage and corruption. But it also engenders political success."

Because of Bavaria's strong local character, analysts are reluctant to make any national predictions based on Sunday's vote.

The Social Democrats, despite the indefatigable leadership of Renate Schmidt, are tipped to score only 29 per cent Sunday.

Two other key parties, the Free Democrats of Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel — tipped for a crushing defeat next month — has only three per cent support in polls, lower than the five per cent needed to enter state parliament.

The extreme-right Republicans, which failed to enter the body in 1990, are expected to slip in this time, with five per cent support in polls.

No charge to be filed against Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES (R) — Now that prosecutors have dropped their sex abuse investigation, Michael Jackson is expected to easily rebuild his music career but will have a tougher time regaining his luster as a top celebrity endorser, experts say. Advertisers will initially be wary of hiring the 36-year-old superstar but album buyers will have no trouble overlooking the 13-month probe into allegations that Jackson sexually molested a 14-year-old boy, the advertising and music experts said.

"I thought he was dead professionally. A few months ago I never... would have believed Michael Jackson would have salvaged his career. Now I'm convinced that he will," syndicated gossip columnist Marilyn Beck told Los Angeles television station KABC. Prosecutors in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties announced Wednesday that they would not bring criminal charges against Jackson because the boy who had accused him of molesting him had refused to testify. But the district attorneys steered clear of publicly exonerating Jackson and said the case would remain open for five more years in case the boy changed his mind. In January, Jackson agreed to pay the boy a multimillion-dollar settlement in return for dropping civil charges, raising speculation that the singer had bought his silence. Jackson has denied any wrongdoing.

Court overturns \$8.1m judgment against Basinger

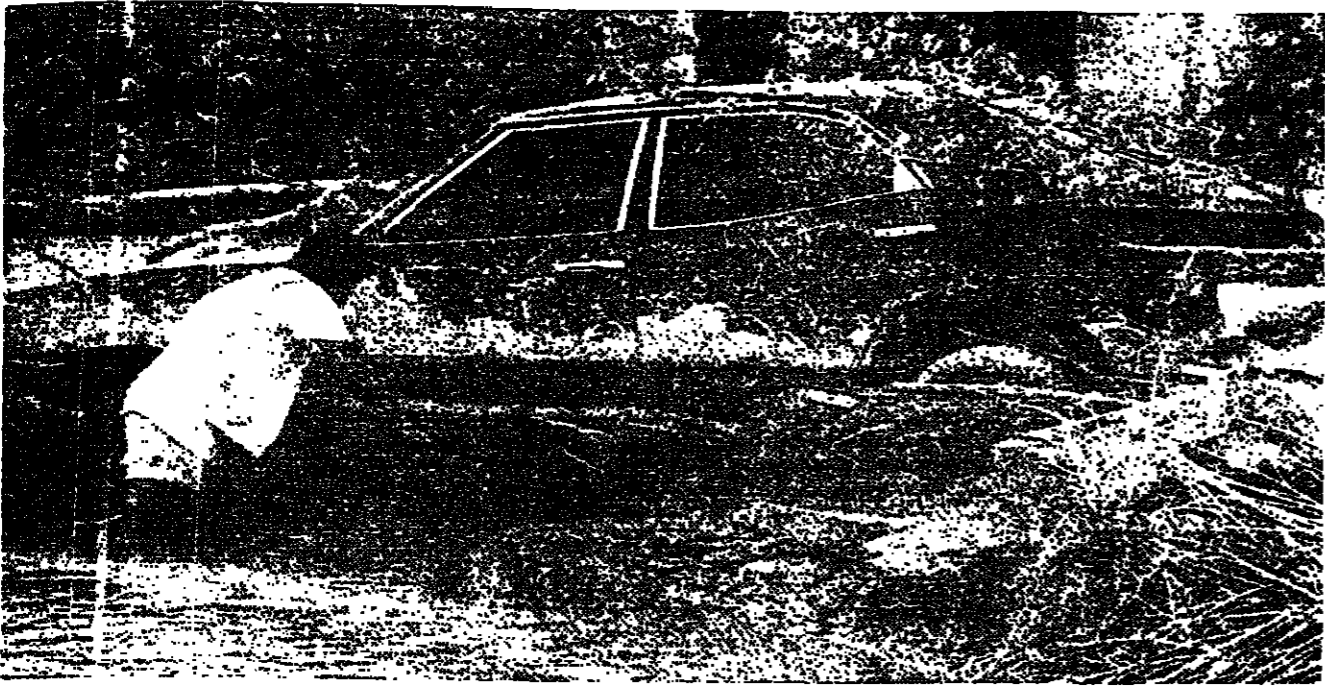
LOS ANGELES (R) — An appeals court has overturned an \$8.1 million judgment against actress Kim Basinger for backing out of the starring role in the Main Line pictures film Boxing Helena. The State Second District Court of Appeals ruled that the judge in last year's civil trial had given the jury improper instructions. The breach-of-contract award which forced Ms. Basinger into bankruptcy — was one of the largest ever to hit Hollywood, where multimillion-dollar deals are often sealed with a handshake or a scrawled figure on a cocktail napkin. The ruling, which reversed the jury award but did not discuss the merits of the controversial case, sends the matter back to Los Angeles Superior Court for a possible retrial.

Ms. Basinger, a sultry, 39-year-old actress who has become one of Hollywood's biggest sex symbols, had been accused of renegeing on a verbal contract to play the lead role in the offbeat film. Main Line, a small independent studio, said that Basinger's departure in 1991, just three weeks before filming was to begin, cost it between \$5 million and \$10 million. But Ms. Basinger had testified that no final agreement was reached and that she chose not to appear in the film because she would have had to perform in graphic sex scenes. Ms. Basinger, an international box-office star who has appeared in such films as Batman and 9½ Weeks, said she was "extremely pleased" with the appeal's court decision. "I was denied due process and the case was reversed," she said in a statement. "I continue to maintain that there was no contract, oral or otherwise."

British bash brussels over bent bananas

LONDON (R) — British tabloids Wednesday embarked on one of their favourite sports — bashing Brussels bureaucrats over bent bananas. The target of their scorn are new European Union quality standards which say that from next January bananas must be free of "abnormal curvature of the fingers." The rules do not say how much a banana may bend. But they must be at least 14 cm (5.5 inches) long and 2.7 cm (1.06 inches) in diameter unless they come from Madeira, the Azores, the Algarve, Crete and Lakonia where they can be smaller because of special weather conditions. Euro-sceptics in Prime Minister John Major's Conservative government thundered about interference in the sovereign affairs of try of Jamco, the marketing company that represents the Jamaican industry, was concerned as he prodded, peeled and examined a bunch of bananas on Sky Television. "Our bananas should have no problem in meeting minimum size requirements and have no problems on curvature either," he said.

منا من الأصل



A resident looks at his car swept by 10 feet high mudflow from Mount Pinatubo volcano Friday. The steaming mud and debris from the nearby volcano swept through two towns before dawn killing 18 people and leaving seven people missing (AFP photo)

18 die, 1,400 homes buried by Philippine mudflow



A villager with salvaged belongings walks on the roof of a house which was buried under 10 feet of volcanic mud and debris which erupted from Mount Pinatubo volcano (AFP photo)

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AFP) — A 10-foot (three-metre) high river of scalding volcanic mud engulfed 13 villages north of Manila, killing at least 18 people and burying about 1,400 houses at the foot of Pinatubo volcano, rescue officials said Friday.

Seven other residents of Porac and Bacolor towns were missing after the deadly volcanic mudflow before dawn Thursday, and five people sustained severe burns, they said.

Officials of Pampanga province north of here mobilised a wide-scale rescue operation to save several thousand survivors, many of them marooned on the roofs of houses swamped by the hot mixture of ash, pumice and water.

At least four air force helicopters, several military amphibious vehicles and large trucks and buses were being used to evacuate survivors, said Chief Superintendent Dion Ventura, the top police official of the Central Luzon region.

The air force said military aircraft were also air-dropping prepared food rations to the stranded residents.

The mudslide also destroyed a bridge and a two-kilometre stretch of a major highway, along with scores of trucks, cars and vehicles, officials of the Pampanga province Disaster Coordinating Council told reporters.

The council said the volcanic debris was dislodged from the flanks of nearby mountains including Pinatubo, whose massive 1991 eruption killed nearly a thousand people and skewed weather patterns around the world.

At least nine of the fatalities, including a family of five, were trapped in their homes as they slept. Three of the victims were elderly people 70 years old or older.

Sonia Dimabuyan, a Social Welfare Department official, said she saw the bodies of four women and a man being fished out of the Gugo Creek, which was swollen with the volcanic debris.

The towns are approximately 60 to 70 kilometres north of Manila but are only about 20 kilometres away from Pinatubo.

Since the 1991 eruption, hot volcanic debris has continued to cascade down Pinatubo's slopes during heavy rain. Volcanologists say this phenomenon will continue until 1998.

U.N. reports revenge massacres of Hutus by Rwanda's Tutsi army

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United Nations refugee agency said Friday it had reports that Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) forces massacred thousands of Hutus in revenge killings and it was no longer urging refugees to return to the country.

U.N. and government officials were to meet in Kigali later in the day to discuss conducting a joint investigation into the eyewitness accounts of the reported deaths.

"Although these alleged incidents were not carried out simultaneously or throughout the entire affected geographical areas, an unmistakable pattern of killings and persecution by the RPA aimed at Hutu populations in certain parts of the country was the unavoidable conclusion drawn from the reports that are available to us," spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing.

"Estimates suggest that the number of victims may have been in the thousands each month," Mr. Redmond added, referring to the two-month period since late July.

Mr. Redmond said that due to the reports, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had stopped giving aid to refugees wishing to return to Rwanda 10 days ago.

The reports came largely from 300 interviews conducted from Aug. 1 to Sept. 5 by UNHCR's special repatriation team, which travelled through much of Rwanda and also visited teeming refugee camps in Tanzania, Burundi

and Zaire. Mr. Redmond said the accounts, recorded at "different border points" from newly-arriving refugees as well as from former refugees who had fled again, have been transmitted to U.N. headquarters in New York and to the Kigali government.

The Rwanda Patriotic Forces (RPF), who captured Kigali last July and set up the government, have vowed not to retaliate for the estimated one million minority Tutsis killed during two months of civil war.

Rwanda's government has acknowledged that some 60 to 70 Hutus were killed by RPA soldiers in various parts of the country, and it has reportedly apprehended seven RPA suspects, according to the UNHCR spokesman.

Mr. Redmond said the agency had some reports of RPA soldiers being assisted by Tutsi refugee returnees. Rwanda's government is considering an amnesty, or re-education without trial, for Hutu extremist militias who were "used" by those who masterminded three months of genocide, the government spokesman said Friday.

Major Wilson Rutayisire said the measure would depend on the international community rapidly organising trials for war-crimeals.

"The trial of those responsible for the genocide is long overdue. Some have been in prison for more than two months and very soon we shall be condemned for de-

taining them without trial," Maj. Rutayisire said.

He added that the "hard core" of Interahamwe militiamen responsible for the massacres was thought by the government to consist of some 2,000 people who should face trial as would the political and military officials responsible for the massacres.

Soldiers of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which seized Kigali in July and installed the new government, Thursday arrested a mechanic working for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), whom they accused of "atrocities".

UNAMIR spokesman Pierre Mehu said the man was arrested at the mission's headquarters in the Amahoro Hotel, where he had been working for two months. UNAMIR chief General Guy Tounsiant considered that the arrest was "made in a proper manner," Mr. Mehu added.

Maj. Rutayisire said the government was preparing "a grand offensive" against the Hutu extremists in the south-east of Rwanda where, he claimed, they were still committing "atrocities".

The army "will kill the criminals" it finds, he said.

Maj. Rutayisire said about 200 of those considered responsible for the massacres were being detained by the RPF.

He warned the international community that if "we see those responsible going freely we shall think we are betrayed."

"If these people are not brought to trial we will not achieve the reconciliation which implies that justice has been done."

He said the government just "wants them tried" and was "not bothered where and under which law." The trial could be held at the International Court at The Hague in the Netherlands.

Meanwhile UNAMIR said it would deploy a company of about 100 Canadians and Australians Saturday in the southeast where it so far had deployed only military observers. A Tunisian battalion due to arrive in 10 days in Rwanda will also be deployed in that region.

Mr. Mehu said the decision was taken after reports were received of a "deterioration of the situation" in the region and "allegations of revenge reprisals" together with "reports of atrocities".

But he said "nobody knows who" is responsible. Maj. Rutayisire blamed the Interahamwe, who sought refuge in Tanzania, Burundi and Zaire, claiming they are crossing the border to "pillage," "kill," and commit "atrocities".

He said the government suspected "a campaign of former government officials to make the people stay behind" in the refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania.

The first Japanese soldiers to take part in a foreign expedition under their own command since the end of World War II flew into the Zairean border town of Goma Friday.

U.S., N. Korea meet for fresh nuclear talks

GENEVA (R) — U.S. and North Korean officials opened a fresh round of high-level talks in Geneva Friday amid warnings from Pyongyang that pressure for inspection of its controversial nuclear programme could scupper a deal.

North Korea's delegation, led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju, arrived at the U.S. mission in Geneva and was met by U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci.

Both sides said this week they hoped to make some progress in resolving the nuclear issue which sent tension soaring on the last cold war frontier dividing North and South Korea earlier this year.

Hours before talks resumed, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman fired a fresh broadside against the West for piling pressure on Pyongyang to accept special inspections.

"If the dishonest forces created difficulties in the provision on LWRs (light-water reactors), insisting on special inspections, (North Korea) would not feel the need to freeze its independent graphite-moderated reactor programme," said the spokesman, quoted by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) monitored in Tokyo.

The North Koreans agreed to halt their nuclear programme when they last met the Americans for talks in Geneva in August.

In return, Washington pledged to help the isolated Communist state obtain new light-water reactors which produce less plutonium, a key ingredient in manufacturing a nuclear bomb.

The United States and its allies suspect Pyongyang of having conducted a secret nuclear arms programme but Pyongyang has repeatedly denied this.

Mr. Gallucci said in Washington Wednesday the prickly issue of special inspections would be discussed in Geneva but he indicated that the United States was prepared to be flexible.

"Recognising that this is a sensitive political issue for all, particularly for the North, we're prepared to defer the conduct of the inspections until somewhat into the settlement process," Mr. Gallucci told reporters in Washington.

A standoff between North Korea and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.N. body charged with inspecting nuclear sites worldwide, began nearly 20 months ago over agency demands to visit

two suspect atomic sites.

The IAEA believes the two buildings are nuclear waste dumps and could hold the answer to whether North Korea has produced and concealed an unspecified amount of weapons-grade plutonium.

Delegates of the agency's 120 member states passed a resolution at the IAEA annual conference Friday urging North Korea once again to allow full inspections.

Pyongyang has always refused point blank, saying the two sites were conventional military facilities.

"It is unthinkable that (North Korea) would open even its military sites to get LWRs," Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

North Korean officials in Geneva were likely to be more interested in hearing details about an international consortium the United States has begun to assemble to finance the possible changes to Pyongyang's nuclear industry.

North Korea has asked for billions of dollars to shut down one 50-megawatt and one 200-megawatt graphite-moderated reactor, both under construction, and build light-water plants instead.

Mr. Gallucci said discussions on the consortium had

so far involved South Korea, China, Japan and Russia but other Asian and European states could also join. He stressed the consortium was still an idea and had not yet taken root as a body.

North Korea Friday called joint U.S.-Japan naval exercises off its east coast a "war gamble" that could complicate negotiations.

"The war gamble of the U.S. and Japanese navies on the east Sea of Korea ... impedes the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula," said a report in the Rodong Simun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling party.

The report also called the manoeuvres a "threat and a challenge" that can "never be justified." The report was quoted by the Korean Central News Agency, which was monitored in Tokyo.

The joint manoeuvres began in the Japan Sea, or East Sea as it is called in Korea. Monday, Bob Bernal, spokesman for the U.S. forces in Japan, said the exercises are routine, and held two or three times a year.

Mr. Bernal said the carrier USS Kitty Hawk and its battle group, which were recently deployed to the same area, were not part of the joint manoeuvres. The Kitty Hawk is based in Yokosuka, Japan.

S. Africa's Zulu heartland fears weekend violence

STANGER, South Africa (R) — South Africa's Zulu heartland was on a knife edge Friday with troops on alert as a Zulu power struggle threatened to erupt into bloody conflict at the weekend.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, in dispute with his powerful uncle Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, cancelled annual celebrations Saturday and Sunday commemorating warrior King Shaka, who founded the Zulu nation in the early 19th century.

But Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the Inkatha-Natal rejected the king's move and said the festivities would go ahead.

Thousands of Zulus were expected to converge Saturday on the northern coastal town of Stanger, where Shaka had his royal residence, and at Durban's Kwamashu township Sunday.

"I think there may well be violence. I am fearful of what is going to happen in rural areas," violence monitor Mary De Haas said. "people are not going to take it. They are going to defend themselves."

Police spokesman Naidoo said police and troops were on alert and a large contingent from the security forces would be deployed in and around Stanger Saturday. "The police and the army have made contingency plans. We will be out in full force, we are prepared for anything," he added.

"We are ready to assist and if the situation on the ground becomes volatile, we will move in to assist them," army spokesman Franz Verfuss said.

Provincial spokesman T.C. Memela told Reuters: "The main speaker at both events

will be Dr. Buthelezi. There will also be traditional dancing and singing."

The 45-year-old king ordered the festivities cancelled and broke relations with Mr. Buthelezi in a row with his 65-year-old uncle after Inkatha supporters stormed the royal residence early this week. He rejected Mr. Buthelezi's claims to be hereditary adviser to the monarch.

Violence monitors and human rights groups say the power struggle between the king and Mr. Buthelezi, who is also home affairs minister in President Nelson Mandela's government of national unity, could erupt into open conflict among the country's nine million Zulus.

Violence in KwaZulu-Natal has eased since the country's first all-race elections in April. But more than 10,000 people have died in turf wars

during the past decade among Zulu supporters of Inkatha and its arch rival political power, Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The ANC Friday urged its members to stay away from the festivities. "The African National Congress in KwaZulu-Natal is greatly disturbed by the unfolding political situation and the possibility of an outbreak of violence in the province," it said in a statement.

Mr. Mandela Thursday urged calm during the celebrations. "We are concerned about that (violence). We wish there would be no such violence," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi and the provincial government said the Shaka Day celebrations would go ahead because King Goodwill had no right to cancel the festivities, held officially since 1974.

Balladur jibes at Chirac in presidential joust

COLMAR, France (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur jibed at Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac here Friday, mocking his rival's past failures as their battle for the presidency intensified.

Mr. Balladur answered criticisms Thursday by Mr. Chirac point by point, but neither leader, both members of the Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR), mentioned the other's name.

Speaking at a meeting of RPR MPs in this eastern French city, Mr. Balladur mocked Mr. Chirac's failure to get a Gaullist elected as president since the late Georges Pompidou in 1969, "a quarter century ago."

Mr. Balladur went on "since then, for various reasons, it has not been possible."

He was alluding to Mr. Chirac's betrayal of Gaullist candidate Jacques Chaban-Delmas in 1974, which led to the election of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

In 1981 Chirac stood as a candidate, helping Socialist President Francois Mitterrand to defeat Giscard d'Estaing and in 1988 the Gaullist leader was trounced by Mr. Mitterrand.

On Thursday, Mr. Chirac criticised the Balladur government for its "passivity" and "immobilism" and its failure to take energetic measures

million unemployed.

Mr. Chirac said "government is more than ever about making choices," in a reference to Mr. Balladur's consensus method of ruling.

On Friday, the prime minister said French economic prospects were good for the next 18 months and that with the return of growth, it would be possible to cut unemployment by one million over the next five years.

Mr. Balladur is far ahead of Mr. Chirac in opinion polls for the presidential prize, but the Gaullist leader urged MPs "to forget the polls, these tablets of the law in uncertain times."

Mr. Chirac, 61, also accused the prime minister of trying to destroy the Gaullist party by making an alliance with the centre-right component of the ruling coalition, the Union for French Democracy (UDF), and trying to split the RPR.

"There can be no place among us for divisions and quarrels," Mr. Chirac said, adding "I am convinced of our victory."

Speaking in a nearby village at a medal awards ceremony, the powerful Interior Minister Charles Pasqua posed as referee in the coming combat between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur.

He said that if necessary, he would bring his "popularity" in the country to play, to arbitrate between Mr. Chirac

and Mr. Balladur in the struggle to replace Mr. Mitterrand.

Mr. Mitterrand has admitted his second seven-year mandate, which ends next May, could be shortened by a protest campaign.

RPR Assistant Secretary-General Jean-Louis Debré, a Chirac supporter, meanwhile called for a "Chirac-Balladur ticket," with Chirac taking the presidency and Balladur remaining as prime minister.

Opinion polls have shown that Mr. Chirac could be defeated by Jacques Delors, 68, the outgoing European Commission president and a former moderate Socialist finance minister, whereas Mr. Balladur, 64, would defeat him.

Mr. Delors has so far been reluctant to declare his candidacy, but appears the Socialists' best hope.

Meanwhile Communist leader Robert Hue, whose party has shrinking support, became the first leftist to declare himself a candidate for France's 1995 presidential elections.

Mr. Hue's early announcement ended speculation that the opposition Socialists might seek to field a joint candidate with the struggling Communists, who have seen their popularity dwindle.

Mr. Hue told a news conference that the leadership of the French Communist Party (PCF) had decided to official-

ly put forward his candidacy. The ratification of this decision by the party's national conference in November will be a formality.

"It will be an anti-money, anti-dash candidacy. Today, king money squashes everything, pollutes everything," said the bearded and bespectacled Hue, a male nurse by profession, after a meeting of the party leadership.

Mr. Hue, who succeeded the long-time orthodox PCF chief Georges Marchais in January, has sought to draw more supporters without alienating the party faithful by abandoning its core principles.

Shortly after his appointment, he said the PCF had broken with the Soviet model, jettisoning its policy of democratic centralism which permitted the party apparatus to impose decisions and streamlining its bureaucracy.

Mr. Marchais, who ruled the party with an iron hand for 22 years, had stuck to Stalinist dogma and isolated the PCF as Soviet communism collapsed.

The PCF boasted almost one million members at the end of World War II and about 700,000 in the 1970s and 1980s, but membership is now below 500,000.

A common-PCF-PS platform fell apart in 1977, and the PCF stormed out of a coalition with the Socialists in 1984.

Italian graft-buster is under fire over book

ROME (R) — Graft-busting prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, a national hero for his work in uncovering political corruption, came under fire for meddling in politics Friday with his forthcoming book on Italy's constitution.

"The Italian Constitution. Rights And Duties, marks a first venture into writing for Di Pietro, the key figure in the 'mani pulite' (clean hands) anti-graft drive which has transformed Italy's political scene in the past two and a half years."

Excerpts from the book were published this week in Sette, the weekly magazine of daily newspaper Corriere Della Sera.

The magazine gave over-star status to the ruggedly handsome Di Pietro, picturing him in his magistrate's robes, alongside a headline transcribing his work as "the constitution explained to Italians (including Berlusconi)."

If the excerpts are anything to go by, the book will make uncomfortable reading for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, whose finessed business empire is under investigation by Di Pietro. Mr. Berlusconi's brother and business partner Paolo was briefly detained as part of the probe this summer.

The judge argues that the solution to Italy's prison overcrowding problem is to build new jails rather than relax the laws on pre-trial custody as the government sought to do in July until a revolt by Mr. Di Pietro and his colleagues forced it to back down.

Mr. Di Pietro also warns of the risks of wealthy businessmen controlling the media, another shot across the bows of Mr. Berlusconi, owner of three national television channels.

The introduction to the book is written by controversial former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who has typically added fuel to the fire.

"Di Pietro is a politician. He didn't realise it but this book marks his entry into politics and signals an exit route for the country from its crisis," Mr. Cossiga said.

The judge faced accusations of political interference earlier this month when he came up with a plan to end Italy's graft scandals.

Leading lawyer Vittorio Chiusano criticised Mr. Di Pietro for his vanity in having his picture taken "as a judge."

"What should matter to ordinary citizens is a magistrate's inquiries, not what he looks like," Mr. Chiusano was quoted as saying in Corriere Della Sera Friday.

The way for a public prosecutor to explain the constitution correctly is by doing his job," he added.

Sinn Fein's Adams gets visa for visit to U.S.

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. official confirmed Friday that Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, would be given a visa to visit the United States but said he could not engage in fund-raising.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in London said the visa would be issued in Belfast later Friday. Mr. Adams has told reporters he expects to start his trip Saturday.

Sinn Fein said Mr. Adams would visit nine cities in his two-week tour, flying into Boston as part of an international effort to capitalise on the ceasefire and harness support for the organisation's ultimate aim of a united Ireland free of British "interference."

After Boston, Mr. Adams will go to Hartford, Connecticut, Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles.

He plans to meet business as well as political figures and address several public meetings attended by Irish-Americans.

Last February Mr. Adams achieved a historic coup during a short trip which the Clinton administration sanctioned in face of stiff opposition from Britain. He was given wide coverage on network television and other

media.

After the IRA declared a ceasefire 23 days ago, the ban on Mr. Adams' voice being heard in the British media was lifted by Prime Minister John Major.

London has said it would not happy if Mr. Adams was granted a second visa but Prime Minister John Major, travelling later to London from a trip to South Africa, said Sinn Fein was "very nearly there" as far as being accepted back into mainstream politics was concerned.

"They could settle the matter immediately by making it clear that what they have said is meant to convey that they have given up violence for good," Mr. Major told BBC Radio.

"If they were to say that today, clearly we could be talking at or around Christmas."

The so-called Downing Street Declaration made by the British and Irish governments last December promised Sinn Fein a place at talks about the future of the province if the IRA gave up its guerrilla war for good.

It recommends a three-month waiting period to test any ceasefire, but Mr. Major said he would not put a date on talks.

Anglo-Irish talks on Northern Ireland resumed here Friday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Much work lies ahead

WHAT IS it that the prime minister of Jordan is supposed to accomplish at this critical stage of the Kingdom's history? A great deal indeed.

First, there is the peace process. And here the incumbent, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, should be the one to see the peace process to its fruitful end. That, because he is the man who led the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks back in 1991 and who devoted much of his time and energy to the Washington talks that eventually resulted in the separation of the Palestinians from the joint delegation. Dr. Majali was Jordan's chief delegate at the peace talks, who finalised with his Israeli counterparts the agenda for Jordan-Israel negotiations that still guide the process. Not only that, Dr. Majali had, on many occasions in the last two years, to defend the peace process at Parliament and against opposition and media rhetoric.

Despite sceptics' doubts about the actual role that Dr. Majali and his government are playing in the peace process, all government dispensing so far has been carried in accordance with the spirit and letter of the constitution. Dr. Majali remains the most ardent supporter and campaigner for peace.

Whether there are others lining up for the premiership, which is normally the case, or not, is not the issue. The feeling among many politicians and activists is that Dr. Majali has earned himself a historic mandate to sign the final peace document. And for that reason, Dr. Majali seems to be staying on in office.

On the domestic front however, the Majali government has come under much criticism for being unable to effect any structural change in government that would address age-old complaints of inefficiency and corruption. The Cabinet is also criticised for having done little to prepare the country for the new challenges brought by a Middle East in peace. Dr. Majali's so-called decentralisation process in fact accomplished little more than giving local authorities more power while possibly only relieving people in far away communities of the trouble of travelling all the way to Amman to address the government.

Despite increasing calls for civil service reform, the government seems unable to initiate any move in this direction. The establishment of a Royal Commission to help carry out the task could be a supporting factor in this regard. The establishment of the commission led to much speculation about the government being bypassed, but His Majesty King Hussein sought to dispel this speculation in his meeting with the media Thursday.

While no one questions the integrity of Dr. Majali himself, there were many complaints of government favouritism and nepotism from many quarters. Furthermore, political party leaders and activists, especially those opposed to the peace process, claim that they are being targeted by the government.

Many people think that Dr. Majali deserves the confidence of His Majesty the King and many hope that before formal peace is established between the country and Israel, the government would have carried out the necessary reforms that are expected of it.

While we appreciate Dr. Majali's integrity, honesty and well-intentions we believe that a great deal of efforts to address domestic issues is in order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily has expressed shock at a decision on the part of several Latin American countries to move their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in a show of support for Israel's claim that the city serves as Israel's united capital. The Latin American countries move came at a time when the whole world realises that peace has not been achieved and that Israel continues to occupy Arab land and deprive the Palestinians of their national statehood, said the paper. The Latin American countries' decision will adversely affect peace prospects and can by no means help the two sides in the conflict to attain a lasting settlement, added the paper. The whole world realises the fact that Israel occupied Arab Jerusalem along with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by force in the 1967 war and the world community has not helped the Arabs and the Israelis yet to reach a final settlement while the refugees and the displaced people are still living in the diaspora, said the paper. The whole world also realises the fact that the Israelis continue to carry out arbitrary practices against the Palestinian and refuse to allow the Arabs to exercise their rights in their own homeland, the paper continued. The Latin American countries' decision, said the paper, should be condemned as a measure that harms the interests of the Arab Nation and hampers the prospects of genuine peace.

AHMAD DABBAS, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, urged the concerned authorities to control the actions of stores which sell gas cylinders to the public. It is a well-known fact that many of the cylinders are rusty and could be leaking, and that many of the dealers steal part of the gas in the cylinders, said the writer. Furthermore, he said the gas cylinder vendors continue to roam the streets and alleys day and night causing severe disturbance to the residential districts. Tampering with the gas cylinders themselves and disturbing the peace is something not only detested and harmful to the public but is also a breach of law, added the writer. He expressed hope that the concerned authorities would take some measure to deter such practices and protect public interest.

Jordanian Perspective

Kingdom's role in Jerusalem will not end

By Dr. Musa Kallala

ONE WOULD have thought that the differences in perceptions over Jerusalem between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were on their way to be settled once and for all after the Kingdom made its stand very clear that it supports the Palestinian quest for political sovereignty in the Holy City. But recent moves announced by PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho indicate otherwise despite subsequent clarifications and explanations.

For all technical and practical purposes, the PNA appears to have given little credit to the fact that Jordan proved its argument that its links to the holy shrines in Jerusalem are not politically oriented when the Kingdom not only supported the Palestinian stand but also engineered a unanimous vote endorsing the Palestinian quest in Jerusalem at the recent Arab League Council meeting in Cairo.

Two distinct voices appear to be coming out of Gaza and Jericho after the Arab League meeting. One calls Jordan to relinquish its control over the Islamic Waqf in Jerusalem in favour of the Palestine National Authority although no formal request has been forwarded to the government of the Kingdom. The other says that the recent decision by the PNA to "authorise" its new minister of Islamic affairs, Hassan Tabboub, to take charge of all Islamic holy shrines in the occupied territories excludes Jerusalem. We do not know what exactly the PNA wants.

But one thing is clear: Jordan will not relinquish its historic links with the Islamic Waqf and will not allow politics to play a damaging role in preserving the Arab and Muslim character of the Holy City.

Anyone who argues that Jordan should "hand over" the Islamic Waqf at this point is at best shortsighted even in the hypothetical situation of the Kingdom being ready to do so. Who does it hand over the Waqf to? the PNA, whose leaders are not even allowed to enter Jerusalem let alone assume control of the shrines?

Realities are realities no matter how anyone looks at it, and the Jordanian stand is clearly based on the realities that exist on the ground today.

The stand is unambiguous if only one looks at it clearly without own ambiguity. The Hashemites are linked historically to the holy shrines in Jerusalem and would not allow anyone to challenge it now or ever. They are determined to continue to that role despite all adversities and difficulties.

The insistence by His Majesty King Hussein that Israel go on the record that it undertakes to respect the Hashemites' role vis-a-vis the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration stemmed from his determination to preserve Jordan's historical links with the holy city regardless of whatever politics are brought in by anyone.

At the same time, Jordan is fully committed to supporting the Palestinian right to political sovereignty over Jerusalem. That also has been abundantly clear.

Whoever does not want to acknowledge the clear distinction drawn by Jordan and argues that there cannot be such a drawing line is only trying to use politics as a cover for some other motives and objectives.

Jordan has made it more than clear that it does not have any desire to return to the pre-1967 status of the occupied territories.

Against the backdrop of these factors, one cannot but assume that the PNA has no intention of honouring the Hashemites' religious role in Jerusalem and hence the hue and cry over the Israeli recognition of the historical fact.

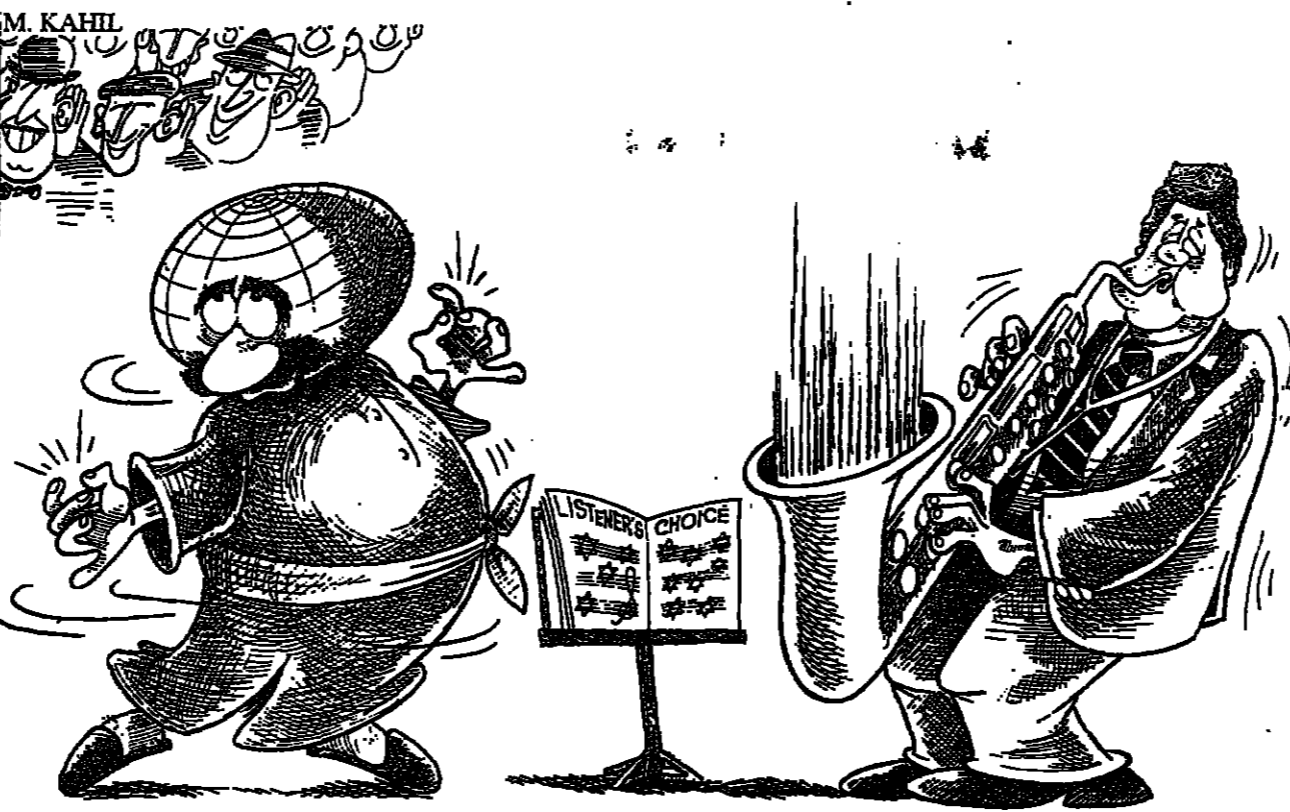
If that indeed is the case, then it is time the PNA came out and stated it in public rather than resorting to a cat-and-mouse game. That way, everyone would know whether the other stands. If non-coordination with Jordan is a strategy of the PNA, then why should Jordan try to put itself in a corner by continuing to achieve coordination?

PNA officials come to Amman and state in public that there are no differences between Jordan and the authority of Jerusalem or any other issue. They talk about brotherly relations and sincere desires to cooperation in various spheres. But those words are not supported by actions coming from Gaza.

Such games are not going to serve anyone's purpose. The need of the day is coordination and understanding between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule leadership as to the precise status of Israeli plans with a view to aborting them.

For a start, the PNA should look more closely but quietly at the legal status of Palestinians living in Jerusalem and at the definition of "residents of the city" and "the citizens of the State of Israel." These are indeed Israeli-made laws and regulations but there are enough loopholes that could be exploited by the Palestinian side in its efforts to reaffirm the Arab, Palestinian and Muslim identity of Jerusalem and advance their quest for political sovereignty over the Holy City in a legal sense.

Such an approach would be more advantageous and fruitful to the Palestinian quest rather than going dancing in circles around the historically-rooted Jordanian position.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel's intransigence at bilateral talks is feeding opposition to peace process

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

LACK OF PROGRESS in the Middle East peace process and a number of domestic affairs were given prominence in newspaper editorials and columnists' articles in the past week.

The peace process, which started off with the aim of implementing U.N. resolutions, is facing a major conspiracy by Israel with support from the United States administration, said a writer in Al Ra'i. The Israelis have reportedly been trying to tamper with the text of the U.N. resolutions concerning the return of Arab land in a bid to circumvent a settlement of the refugees issue and the Jewish settlements question, charged Mahmoud Rimawi. It is sheer piracy on the part of the Israeli government which continues to drag its feet concerning the withdrawal of its forces from occupied Arab lands and it is a crime in which the criminal is trying to erase the traces of his crime, said the writer.

A writer in Al Dustour said that Israel hopes to make economic gains and reap profits from the current peace process and is not interested in giving back the Arabs their usurped territory. Taher Adwan said that through negotiations, the Israeli government hopes to put an end to Arab countries boycott of the Jewish state and has been bragging about imaginary economic progress that would result from joint projects in the Jordan Rift Valley, enabling Jordan to rid itself of such chronic issue as water shortages and unemployment.

ment and foreign debts. We should stop all illusions about economic progress coming to us from Israeli promises and should deal with concrete matters at hand, said the writer. He said prosperity in Jordan could only come through strong Jordanian relations with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the other Arab states.

In light of Israel's procrastinations in the peace process, more and more voices are expressing belief that the Israelis are bent on destroying the peace process. According to Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour. He said nothing has been achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the Israeli government continues to place obstacles in the path of the Palestine National Authority, preventing it from consolidating its hold over the self-rule areas and stopping aid from donor nations to the Palestinians. Some Arab voices are of the view that the Rabin government hopes to freeze the peace process until after the Israeli parliamentary elections, and others, said the writer, are more pessimistic, stressing that no peace would ever be achieved with Israel.

Two columnists were critical of the government's recent decision to increase the cost of state-supplied water to farmers for agricultural purposes.

Ahmad Dabbas in Sawt Al Shaab said that the increase represented a move directly in conflict with the farmers' interests and subsequently the public interest. The writer said that

the increase in the cost of water for irrigation together with the other headaches facing the farmers, like frost in winter and accumulating debts and interests, would lead to destruction of farming and would force many farmers to quit their lands.

This view was echoed by Mohammad Subeishi, a columnist in Al Dustour, who said that the increase of the water cost has placed the farmers between the anvil and the hammer. As they strive to pay back their debts and make a living, farmers also have to pay more for water and for the other agricultural inputs, said the writer. The government's decision would make agricultural production almost impossible in the Jordan Valley. Instead of protecting Jordanian farmers from foreign competition, the government is increasing the burden on local food producers, added the writer.

Commenting on the uneasy situation at the Amman Financial Market, a writer in Al Dustour said the depression there is closely connected with the Middle East peace process.

Issa Shueibi said that investors in Jordan's firms and economic projects keep their ears turned in to news bulletins and watching to see whether any progress has been made there to encourage them to make investments. The writer said that what made matters worse was the government's reported decision to amend the Income Tax Law with a view to raising the margin of taxes and imposing income tax on profits made at the financial market. It is regrettable to see people made to believe that the government is no more concerned with the Amman Financial Market and to see more and more people feeling pessimistic about the future of the national economy, said the writer.

A columnist in Al Dustour paid tribute to the efforts made by the concerned authorities, especially Vocational Training Corporation, for recruiting many young men and women to get training in different trades. In industrial countries, technicians and tradesmen constitute the pillar of industry and form the backbone of economic progress, said Mohammad Daoud, noting that this year more than 13,000 students of the first secondary class have registered to learn a trade while they are still at school. The writer said that the Ministry of Education is to be commended for its efforts, which would eventually help the country rid itself of guest workers and help Jordanians get employment.

Commenting on His Majesty King Hussein's call on the government to ensure fairness in all its public dealings, a columnist in Al Dustour said that this can only be carried out through strict actions and laws. Nabil Sharif said that the government ought to issue legislations aimed at preventing any discrimination among members of the public in all matters relating to services, employment and others. He said drastic action is needed in this matter in order to safeguard national unity.

U.S. military again in middle in Haiti

By Charles Aldinger

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The high moral ground taken by U.S. President Bill Clinton to restore democracy to Haiti has left U.S. troops once again perilously poised between opposing forces in a chaotic Third World nation.

With a bitter experience in Somalia barely over, American forces were sent peacefully into Haiti by Mr. Clinton on Monday to cooperate with an outgoing military junta that Mr. Clinton repeatedly has accused of violence and terror.

"The trouble with Clinton is that he wants it both ways. You're either an occupying power or you're not," said Lawrence Korb, a former assistant defence secretary now with the private Brookings Institution. "We haven't thrown the bums out yet and, in fact, we're working with them in a dangerous situation. Meanwhile, these poor kids (U.S. troops) are caught in the middle," said Mr. Korb.

"It looks like a flaming disaster," said analyst Dan Goure of the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington after U.S. troops stood by this week and watched Haitian police club a pro-Aristide demonstrator to death.

The U.S. policy is to change Haiti's bloody political history, quickly rid the poor nation of lieutenant-general Raoul Cedras and other junta members and restore elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 coup.

Mr. Clinton, anxious to avoid casualties, cancelled an invasion on Sunday after a last-minute deal brokered by former president Jimmy Carter under which Mr. Cedras will quit next month and allow an occupation force of 15,000 U.S. troops.

Mr. Aristide's opposition is still well-armed and Mr. Cedras is not required to leave Haiti. Some Pentagon officials say privately that the alternative to invasion has created a more complicated scenario and could put U.S. troops in even more danger from political violence in the weeks ahead.

Those troops stood helplessly by in the capital Port-au-Prince this week while Haitian police attacked demonstrators welcoming the Americans and

shouting support for Mr. Aristide. In a drama repeatedly shown on television in the United States, at least one demonstrator was clubbed to death by baton-wielding police.

The Pentagon said U.S. troops would not interfere in routine police functions and American commanders would instead press Gen. Cedras to exert more control over his security forces.

Meanwhile, alarmed supporters of Mr. Aristide in Washington complained that Gen. Cedras and others should have been forced to leave Haiti immediately and the military and police should be disarmed right away as they would have been in an invasion.

"We are placing our military people basically and fundamentally in an untenable position," charged Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, a former navy flier and prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"What we are about to see is the classic example of what we call 'mission creep'," he said, referring to the unintended expansion of an original mission.

Thousands of American troops were finally withdrawn from Somalia this year after what began as a humanitarian aid mission but in which 30 soldiers were killed in clashes with Somali factions.

Mr. McCain, who opposes any U.S. military role in Haiti, said that if the troops did safely complete the dangerous business of disarming police and Haitian militia, then pro-Aristide mobs could freely engage in retribution.

He said the Americans would then be caught in the middle of such violence without being able to differentiate between the good and the bad in the densely populated nation that has had a history of civil strife.

At the heart of the controversy is not just whether Mr. Clinton should have committed U.S. troops at all, but whether he should have listened to Mr. Carter on Sunday and agreed to allow Gen. Cedras to stay in office for another month and remain in the country if he likes.

Gen. Cedras had already earlier reneged on a United Nations-brokered agreement to step down and some critics suggest that Mr. Carter has proven naive in the past on the issue of trusting Mavereck leaders of rogue nations.

LETTERS

Save downtown

To the Editor:

IN HIS article, "The popular areas and the need for social action" (Jordan Times, Aug. 25-26), Ahmed Majdoubah raised an important issue that pertains to our environment and health.

The lack of concern for the environment and the health of the people as well as their time, can be clearly proven by the situation in downtown Amman.

Downtown Amman should be considered a popular area where only public transport vehicles are allowed, especially at peak hours. Citizens using their private cars can park them outside downtown and use public transport to go there. That would reduce air pollution and end traffic jams.

I believe the concerned government authorities should take immediate action to implement these proposals as, I am sure, that they enjoy the support of most of the people who go to the downtown area.

Dr. Barbara Burgan, Amman.

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BBC cor

M16 to C

By Richard Norton-Ta

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BBC connived with M16 to oust Nasser

By Richard Norton-Taylor

BRITISH Intelligence for 15 years secretly ran an influential Arabic radio station which it used during the Suez crisis to dispense virulent propaganda against Egypt's President Nasser, documents released from Foreign Office and BBC archives disclose.

Declassified files also reveal the extent to which senior BBC staff connived in the government's decision to convert the station into an open propaganda weapon.

Sharq-Al-Adna — the Near East Broadcasting Station — was set up in Palestine by British Intelligence in 1941 and relocated to Cyprus in 1948. Using the cover of a commercial station, it transmitted anti-Israel commentary, readings from the Koran, and music from its own orchestra on a strong medium band wave-length.

During the Suez crisis, Sharq became "the Voice of Britain," broadcasting propaganda interspersed with sanitised BBC news bulletins for four hours a day.

The government claimed at the time that it had "requisitioned" Sharq. Papers released for a BBC Radio 4 programme, *Suez: The Propagation of Truth*, show that this was a lie — the government was running the station all along. A document in the BBC archives at Caversham, near Reading, Berkshire, noted in October 1956 that the Sharq company "on the technical side will continue to act as the agent of HMG (Her Majesty's Government)." A Foreign Office document, dated March 1947, reveals that FO officials were looking for "suitable candidates for the posts of Director and Deputy Director" of the Sharq station.

Senior BBC staff went along with the fiction that the station was "requisitioned." One official notes that Sharq "became well established during the war under Foreign Office auspices... we have had many contacts with the station."

Hugh Carleton-Greene, a future director-general who was controller of External Services at the time of Suez, was a member of a secret Foreign Office/M16 committee chaired by a junior FO minister, Douglas Dods-Parker. He was appointed after consultations between Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, FO permanent secretary, and Maj-Gen. Sir Ian Jacob, then the BBC's director-general.

Typical of the output of the Voice of Britain were warnings to the Egyptians: "You are hidden in small villages. We are obliged to bomb you wherever you are." "Why has this befallen you? First, because Abdel Nasser went mad..."

The committee noted that the "long-term aim is to get rid of Abdel Nasser." The government line — known by senior BBC staff to be false, the documents show — was that Britain had invaded as part of a "police action" to separate the combatants (Egypt and Israel).

A cabinet committee tried to persuade the BBC not to be "so obsessed by the notion of neutrality." Government pressure to toe the line included threats of deep cuts in the BBC's grant.

The documents were disclosed under Whitehall's "open government" initiative. Some in both the FO and the BBC's Caversham archives — have been withheld. The programme raises the question whether the BBC should be keeping the government's secrets in its own archives — *The Guardian*



Despite intense international efforts, Rwandans still live in perpetual tension and fears (AFP photo)

U.N., NGOs put together Rwanda water plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — International relief agencies, including several United Nations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have developed and implemented plans to restore water services to Rwandans, a U.N. statement says.

The statement said one of the key aims of the programmes was also to attract those who fled their homes during the carnage that followed the mysterious death of the country's president early this year.

The rehabilitation of water and sanitation services to their pre-conflict status in towns and villages is being developed in tandem with emergency repairs and temporary services and main routes along with refugees and displaced persons are travelling, said the statement.

The three-stage plan — emergency, mid-term, and long-term actions — was drawn up after a rapid assessment of needs and capacity and seeks to avoid duplication of work, it said.

"The restoration of water services within Rwanda is

complicated due to the war damage, looting of equipment, the absence of most technical personnel and the loss of many records and technical details necessary to restart the systems," the U.N. said.

The massive movement of Rwandans within the country and to neighbouring countries in fear of violence has led to "large concentrations of people in areas where few water supply systems are available to meet even the minimum basic needs," it said.

Immediate plans drawn up by the various agencies, which include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other U.N. bodies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) aim at providing a minimum of five litres per day of water to every Rwandan and sufficient number of latrines along the expected routes of returning refugees and displaced within Rwanda.

Providing basic water supply and sanitation facilities at semi-permanent encampments of displaced

Rwandans and to all hospitals and health centres is another goal.

Teams of UNICEF water engineers have done rapid assessment of water supply systems in the Rwandan capital Kigali and 13 main urban centres throughout the country to evaluate their needs.

In Kigali itself, UNICEF, ICRC and UNAMIR are involved in a joint effort to restore the city's water system through generators and water treatment plants as well as repair work at various sites. At least 50 per cent of the city's population would have piped water by the time the plans are complete. Now only 25 per cent of the Kigali population get water.

The U.N. listed other main programmes as under:

A water purification plant, donated by Australian International Bureau (AIRAB), has been installed at Rulima beside Lake Gashanga, 80 kilometres south east of Kigali, and is providing water to over 6,000 people daily.

In Gikongoro, UNICEF, after the departure of the French military, has taken over coordination of

the plant which provides piped water to the town, which currently has a population of around 50,000 people. UNICEF is providing water purification chemicals and incentives for local workers to operate the plant, while UNAMIR provides the fuel.

In Butara, in southern Rwanda, UNICEF, Medicines Sans Frontiers and the ICRC are repairing the partially damaged water treatment plant and pumps and have cleaned out blockages in pipelines. UNICEF and the parastatal Electrogaz held a three-day operational maintenance workshop for 35 workers at water treatment plant. UNICEF has agreed to provide chemicals and incentives for the workers at the plant for six months.

In the northeast, an assessment mission was undertaken. It found that four of 11 camps (with a total population of 62,000, of which most are refugees returning from Uganda), required urgent water supply. UNICEF provided tools and spare parts to rehabilitate the water system at one of the camps (Nyagatare camp).

and water purification tablets officers are preparing messages on basic hygiene and control diarrhoeal disease for radio broadcast and printing leaflets and posters, and is mobilising individuals to work as health message communicators within their communities.

UNICEF Executive Director James Grant, completed a four day mission to Rwanda and Burundi (9-12 September). Extensive consultations included meeting with the Rwandan president, senior ministers both Rwanda and Burundi and with U.N., NGO and donor communities in Rwanda. Field trips to view UNICEF programmes in Kigali, Nyamata, Cyangugu and Gikongoro in Rwanda and Bukavu and Goma in Zaire, were undertaken. Highlights included final negotiations to ensure safe movement of 467 child soldiers from ex-Rwandan government army camp in Bukavu to newly established "child friendly centres," and visits to unaccompanied children's centre in Goma, as part of coordinated tracing and reunification programme with ICRC in Goma.

and jerrycans were provided to other camps.

— A further three assessment missions were undertaken in 34 camps near Gikongoro in the south-west region. Here, 24 camps require a water supply. UNICEF is presently coordinating efforts to ensure a supply of potable water to these camps.

— Three tractors and 27 water tanks, of different sizes and capacities and 1,000 20-litre jerrycans, 2 tonnes of chlorine, and 7 boxes of 50,000 water purification tablets have been provided by UNICEF to camps in the Gikongoro area with assistance from the British army contingent in UNAMIR, who provided transport and storage.

— Coordination with the British army contingent to dig pit latrines in 34 camps.

The water and sanitation rehabilitation activities are part of the broader programme of reducing mortality and morbidity throughout the country. To reinforce the projects to increase access to potable water and sanitation facilities, UNICEF's health

King reiterates confidence

(Continued from page 1)

state and who always monitors the general situation and who orders a change whenever the Council of Ministers or a Cabinet member seems to be failing in performing his duty," Dr. Majali said in an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily published Thursday.

"Any change in government which the King orders is for the benefit of the national interest and also the prime minister himself might resign whenever he feels that he has failed in his duty or could not achieve the nation's objectives," he added.

Asked about reported disputes between the government and the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Majali said: "I would like to emphasise that I have never felt at any time that such disputes exist."

"Nothing on my part or on the part of my colleagues did ever antagonise the House or any of its blocs or members. Nor did the government exceed its authorities," he said.

"Parliament has 80 members, most of whom were elected in their independent capacities and not on the basis of political affiliations. Therefore it was difficult to appease everybody in the make-up of the government," Dr. Majali said.

"I do not mean that every one member of Parliament wishes to become a Cabinet member but it is right to be part of a government," he added.

On opposition accusations that the government was imposing a blackout on its activities and views, Dr. Majali said this accusation was unfounded.

"The opposition newspapers are on the newsstands and their views are seen, heard or read on radio, television and the press," added Dr. Majali, who stressed that only when people violate the law they are held to account for their actions.

"Levelling accusations at others at random is not the work of true opposition be-

cause I can do the same thing and make counter-accusations," Dr. Majali added. He said the public was no more interested in those who keep cursing or insulting the government, but rather in those who show keenness in serving the national interest in their own way.

On the government's relations with the political parties and rumours about bans on their activities and seminars, the prime minister said: "We only apply the law which should not be violated under any circumstances or conditions. The law stipulates that public places or state owned places will not be exploited by the parties and makes it clear that the government cannot issue permits for any party to exploit mosques, schools, universities and other places like the Royal Cultural Centre for their own interests and advantages."

"As to referring persons to court, this is understandable whenever these persons infringe on the Press and Publication Law and the court can acquit the accused or impose penalties on the guilty," he added.

"It is illogical for anybody to condone excesses in and violation and it is unreasonable for the government to reply to these violations with curses and insults," he added.

Referring to the peace process, Dr. Majali said King Hussein has saved the nation by steering it to the peace process following the Gulf crisis which had caused Jordan to face numerous crises and problems in addition to unjustified sanctions.

"We are not the greatest power in the region and we cannot resist the international current and cannot resist the great economic pressure on Jordan," he added.

He said the Kingdom had to enter the peace process in which it has been clinging to its rights in territory and waters and borders and demanding a just solution for the refugee problem.

Princess urges world support

(Continued from page 1)

"It is towards this end that cooperation between government and non-governmental bodies, regional bodies as well as the United Nations and all its agencies, should be strengthened and deepened so that the NGOs can more effectively play the role which is increasingly being asked of them," said Princess Basma.

She said without focusing

Jordan seeks equal access

(Continued from page 1)

"These achievements cannot and should not be underestimated in a region where hostility has been so deep-rooted," she said. "For peace to be sustainable, the roots of the conflict have to be adequately addressed, and injustices inflicted on the people of the region over the past five decades have to be properly dealt with."

Dr. Huneidi noted that a recent opinion poll indicated that 75 per cent of the population in Jordan support the Washington Declaration the Kingdom signed with Israel in July and that the rate of Israeli support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace move was similar, if not better.

But the disparity between the two sides, in terms of motivations and expectations, is wide, she noted.

For the Israelis, peace with Jordan means an acceptance in the region while for Jordanians the aspirations are for the restoration of the Kingdom's territorial and water rights and relief from economic hardships.

"Thus, continued support by the average Jordanians hinges on a peace that delivers its promise," Dr. Huneidi emphasised.

"Creating the appropriate conditions is not only the responsibility of our peoples, who have chosen peace as a strategic option; it is also the responsibility of the international community which has invested considerably in this process and which also stands to benefit from a stable Middle East," she told the audience.

Jordan has already made major strides in preparing itself to be more receptive to foreign investment and has met with the requirements of such investment, she noted.

"We have already embarked on a bold political reform process that would ensure an atmosphere of democracy, pluralism and stability conducive to economic growth," she said.

The minister referred to the democratisation process under way in Jordan, the Kingdom's reintroduction of a multiparty political system

and liberalisation of press and publication laws. "Our human rights record is second to none in the region, and is being already judged according to European standards."

"Democratisation in Jordan is an irreversible political process which runs in line with the Kingdom's basic principles of economic freedom and liberal policies," said Dr. Huneidi, adding that Jordan's economic model is based on free-market mechanisms and progressive encouragement of the private sector.

The minister also noted that Jordan had applied for membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and undertook serious measures aimed at liberalising its trade regime.

Dr. Huneidi referred to the economic restructuring programme under way in Jordan, noting that policy reforms and institutional strengthening were being carried out in all major sectors.

"Despite the enormity of this task and the ensuing social challenges, foremost among which are increased levels of poverty and unemployment, Jordan remains committed to economic restructuring and reform," she said. "But as we continue to implement our economic reform programme with the meagre resources at our disposal, along with the new challenges of peace, we find the task ahead is monumental to carry alone. The international community can play a big role in contributing to and supporting the economic growth this envisioned."

The minister said cancelling Jordan's foreign debts would help the Kingdom attain a better balance of payment situation which in turn would do away with investor scepticism. She welcomed as an appreciated step the American and British moves to write off part of Jordan's debts.

"Financing the necessary infrastructure for tourism and industrial development along with regional projects will further improve the competitiveness of Jordan as an investment location, reducing

potential risks of polarisation and the threat that may bring to the stability of the region," Dr. Huneidi said.

Foremost among the investment opportunities available in Jordan are in tourism and Dead Sea chemicals, the minister said, noting that feasibility studies have established the lucrative nature of such ventures.

"Foreign investors will find in Jordan a hospitable environment with competitive investment incentive schemes," she added.

While Jordan has no problems in developing economic cooperation with Israel, the Kingdom is concerned over the "possible destabilising effect of expanding disparities" between the economies of the two countries, she said.

This explains Jordan's "preference for a gradual and well-planned transition to open economic relations" with Israel, the minister said. "This could be done over a period of time that would allow addressing and resolving economic disparities as a precondition for successful cooperation."

"Our position emanates from our determination to make peace a durable one rather than from resistance to normalisation of relations," Dr. Huneidi said. "It reflects our desire to forge peace based on a balance of prosperity for all."

Christopher upbeat on Syria

legitimate and the U.S. diplomatic effort does not change from that of transmitting information," the ruling party's Al Baath said.

Israel Radio said Friday the finance ministry was working out a package of financial compensation for settlers who may have to leave the Golan Heights under a peace deal with Syria.

The Ministry has decided that whatever the final deal with Syria some settlements will be evacuated and "reasonable" compensation payments required.

However, Elisheva Braun, a ministry advisor "categorically" denied the report which provoked an angry reaction from settlers.

Eli Malka, chairman of the Golan settlements, said there was no question of anyone taking money to quit the Heights.

Under the reported scheme, families would be offered a lump sum for their home or business and then a monthly allowance linked to army pensions.

Anat Maor of the left-wing Meretz Party told the radio that compensation should be made available immediately to wantaway settlers among

the 13,000 Israelis who have moved on to strategic plateau.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered Syria a "marginal" withdrawal on the Golan Heights over three years to allow for normalisation of relations.

He hopes to hang on to some of the territory in a final agreement but Syria has steadfastly demanded the return of everything in exchange for peace.

Meanwhile, the ultra-orthodox Shas party has threatened to support a bill requiring a 70 per cent parliamentary majority for any peace agreement with Syria.

Renegade Labour deputies have announced their intention to bring the bill in a bid to prevent Mr. Rabin from handing back more than a token area of the heights, which were annexed de facto in 1981.

Shas has demanded to be brought back into the coalition and to be given ministerial portfolios in line with agreements made with Mr. Rabin, but blocked by the secular Meretz.

The orthodox group quit the coalition a year ago when its leader Aryeh Deri, who was interior minister at the time, was indicted for fraud and corruption.

U.S. wants junta to quit Haiti

(Continued from page 1)

turned out to demonstrate in favour of exiled Mr. Aristide. U.S. officials had left the task of maintaining public order to the Haitian security forces, while emphasising cooperation between the two forces.

A poll published Friday by the Los Angeles Times found that 53 per cent of Americans disapprove of sending troops to Haiti. An almost equal percentage, 54 per cent, feared U.S. forces would get bogged down there.

Only 32 per cent believed that American troops "will be able to finish their job and withdraw from Haiti in a fairly timely fashion." Of those surveyed, 67 per cent approved of the settlement that averted an invasion,

however.

U.S. troops beginning their first foot patrols through Haiti's second-largest city Friday encountered a band that serenaded them but also a few taunts and rocks, Marines said.

Marines took to the streets of Cap-Haitien overnight, armed with new orders to shoot Haitian forces if need be to stop them from menacing civilians. As they moved through the city, Marines standing guard at some points said they encountered rocks and taunts.

No one was hurt, and it was not known who threw the rocks.

In a lighter scene at a checkpoint near a bridge, two Marine armoured personnel carriers were surrounded by

Haitians and serenaded through the night. At one point, the Haitians brought out a band that accompanied the singing with a trumpet, bango and drums.

In Port-au-Prince a Creole language newspaper announced it was resuming publication Friday. The weekly *Liberte* was Haiti's most influential newspaper and one of the loudest voices of the nation's disenfranchised poor when it shut down earlier this month amid death threats.

The Rev. Jean-Yves Urfe, a French-born priest who is the newspaper's editor, said Friday the newspaper would resume publication "even if there's still danger."

Haitians became bolder in their celebration of the eventual return of President Aristide Thursday after the U.S. military widened its control and said American soldiers have discretion to use force against Haitian police who brutalise civilians.

Thousands of Haitians broke out a spontaneous demonstration at the gates to the seaport, a staging area for the U.S. occupying force.

Hundreds brought out old leaflets and laminated voting cards with Mr. Aristide's picture on them, and waved them in triumph as they sang freedom songs. There were similar rallies in Cap-Haitien.

Only a few days ago, displaying such photos would have landed Haitians in jail — or worse.

U.S. troops took over an air base and Haiti's only known weapons depot as Haitian soldiers stood by.

Economy

British pound seen appreciating to \$1.60 in six to 12 months time

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Sept. 15-1994 until Wednesday, Sept. 21-1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

British pound

The British pound was steady against the U.S. dollar trading in the US/GBP 1.56-1.57 range. The pound gained against the DM and was up to DM 2.44 as the mark weakened on the European crosses.

The recent U.K. rate hike combined with a cut in the German discount rate expected after the October elections should move the UK-German interest rate differential in favour of the pound. With the DM expected to strengthen against the U.S., and the pound to strengthen against the DM, we expect the pound will appreciate to U.S.\$1.60 in six-to-twelve months time.

Deutschemark

The dollar had a mixed week against the DM, trading in the DM 1.53-1.54 range. The dollar initially took a tumble against the DM as a 0.6 per cent rise in the producer price index renewed market fears about U.S. inflation. However, a better-than-expected consumer inflation report gave the dollar a small boost. The DM was generally weak in Europe following apprehensions in the market about whether Chancellor Kohl's party would win a majority in the October elections.

In general, dollar weakness against the DM is expected to continue in the coming quarters with real interest rate differentials beginning to move in favour of the DM. Further, the growth differential that was in favour of the U.S. is beginning to narrow pointing to increasing DM strength in the long-run. We look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.50 level in 12 months.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc rallied against the Deutschemark last week to a new high of SF/DM 0.8284. Currently the franc is trading near 0.8286. Increased signs that the Swiss economy continues to recover has helped the franc to appreciate against the mark. Second quarter GDP in Switzerland rose at a 2.4 per cent rate following a first-quarter rate of 3.2 per cent. Fixed investment continues to lead the recovery. Consumption and government spending has been showing only modest growth. The external sector, on the other hand, has been a drag on the economy. Exports fell in both the first and second quarter while imports increased.

The weakness in the external sector suggests the Swiss franc may be overvalued. With consumer price inflation still low — up only 0.5 per cent in August from a year ago — Swiss authorities could cut the discount rate again to offset some of the strength in the currency. We expect a 50 basis point cut in some of the strength in the currency. We expect a 50 basis point cut in the discount rate — currently 3.5 per cent — within the next six months. We expect the franc to return to trading near SF/DM 0.84 where it should remain steady for the next year.

Against the dollar, the franc remained fairly steady in the last week, trading near SF/U.S.\$ 1.29. Over the next six-to-twelve months, we expect the franc to appreciate against the dollar to SF/U.S.\$ 1.26.

Canadian dollar

The Canadian dollar surged following the Sept. 12 Quebec election results, appreciating from C\$/U.S.\$ 1.37 on the day of the election to 1.35 the following day. Though the Parti Quebecois returned to power — as expected — their margin of victory was narrower than expected and it appears as though a referendum on sovereignty — likely to be held in 10 months — would be unsuccessful. The latest opinion pole on sovereignty showed 30 per cent in favour, 56 per cent against and 14 per cent still undecided.

Since the election, the C\$ has continued to show strength, appreciating to C\$/U.S.\$ 1.34. With the election out of the way, the focus of attention should return to domestic economic fundamentals, which continue to point toward a stronger C\$. We maintain our forecast for the C\$ to be trading near C\$/U.S.\$ 1.28 in twelve months time due to strong non-inflationary growth and improving budget deficits.

Three candidates race for top world trade post

GENEVA (R) — Three candidates — a Mexican, an Italian and a South Korean — emerged this week as the official contenders for the post of chief of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) to be born next year.

And negotiators from major powers have assured trading partners their leaders are committed to ratification of last December's GATT treaty opening world markets in time for it to go into effect, and with it the WTO, from next Jan. 1.

The apparently final line-up in the leadership race emerged in the last few days after Brazil said it was pulling out its former finance minister Rubens Ricuperio, and the European Union (EU) said it was formally endorsing Italy's ex-trade minister Renato Ruggiero.

The twin developments left Mr. Ruggiero, now an executive with the Fiat Motor Company, facing off against Mexico's outgoing president Carlos Salinas de Gortari and South Korea's Trade and Industry Minister Kim Chul-su. But diplomats said it was far from clear if any one of them could garner the necessary support or avoid a veto, and that a compromise candidate like New Zealand's Trade Minister Philip Burdon could still enter in case of deadlock.

A final decision is expected to be reached by consensus — probably by the end of November — after consultations among the 125 members of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which will be absorbed by the WTO.

But diplomats say the outcome could well hang on the result of horse-trading between the United States and the EU over the contentious leadership of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Mr. Salinas, who has U.S. backing and could expect full support from the Latin American countries who

wield growing influence in GATT, launched his WTO bid early in the summer and had been seen as the front runner. He steps down as the summer and had been seen as the front runner. He steps down as president of Mexico on Dec. 1 — fitting perfectly with the present schedule for the transfer of control at GATT from current Director General Peter Sutherland of Ireland, who did not seek the WTO job.

But diplomats say Mr. Ruggiero is winning support outside the union — from former communist states in Europe and from many African and Asian delegations to

the 47-year-old GATT as a trade specialist who would also bring political clout. And some trade negotiators say he now looks to have the edge.

"There is a groundswell of concern that Salinas would not be able to stand up to the Americans," said another diplomat from an emerging economy. "We also wonder if he might be too aloof from day-to-day operations."

Mr. Kim, who has campaigned widely, has public backing from the ASEAN grouping of South East Asian nations and from Australia. Supporters of both Mr. Ruggiero and Mr. Kim say the WTO needs a technician

with a detailed grasp of trade matters — as they have rather than a political figure even with the international prestige and economic education of Mr. Salinas.

Mr. Salinas backers argue his key role in steering Mexico away from protectionism into a market economy and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) link-up with the United States and Canada make him an ideal WTO chief.

The outcome will be decided without a vote through the consensus system operated by GATT. Any delegation can "withhold consensus."

Buying sets up gold for charge at \$400

LONDON (R) — Gold prices surged Friday to their highest official London fixing since August 1993, spurred by a late speculative buying spree in New York on Thursday.

Bullion analysts said the \$396.50 per ounce morning fixing — up from \$393.70 on Thursday and the highest since Aug. 4 last year — might have primed the market to pass \$400 for the first time since a \$409 peak last year.

"What we have been seeing is a bit of good old fashioned gold fever," one dealer said, as the higher New York price triggered further buying in Asia and then Europe.

"It seemed to be being set up for a run to \$400 by pushing prices at a vulnerable time," said Geoff Rhodes, senior precious metals adviser at Credit Suisse.

Seemingly planned raids on the markets made some dealers uneasy about the price remaining at current high levels.

"A lot of aggressive buying has been done to maximise impact, which argues for caution," said Andy Smith, bullion analyst at Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). "Maybe they are right... but they have to take profits sometime."

He said the nearest historical parallel was last August, when the price tumbled after just a few days above \$400.

Some dealers said the market attracted waves of buying by speculators and users, as the jewellery industry gears up for Christmas, but professional bullion traders were more wary of committing themselves to holding big positions.

IMF meeting seeks compromise over funds for East

FRANKFURT (R) — Rich and poor nations at this year's meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are set for a battle over releasing billions of dollars to prop up struggling economies in developing and former East Bloc countries.

The 1994 meeting in Madrid, celebrating the 50th anniversary of both the IMF and the World Bank, will also give the industrialised world the opportunity to trumpet its recovery from recession.

But in background economic discussions, before and during the IMF meeting which opens officially on Oct. 4, worries about soaring interest rates and inflationary threats are bound to be high on the agenda.

Trade tensions between the United States and Japan will also feature. Behind the scenes, bankers will inevitably be looking for a solution to an intransigent Russian debt problem.

But at the heart of the IMF meeting will be a proposal from the fund's chairman, Frenchman Michel Camdessus, literally to create \$50 billion out of thin air to provide cash, mainly for the struggling former-East, but also for other poor nations.

Mr. Camdessus wants to hand out the money in the form of an allocation of the IMF's own artificial currency, the Special Drawing Right (SDR).

The last general allocation of SDRs to IMF members was in 1981, but the IMF argues that the 37 countries which have joined since then must now benefit from another broad handout.

Mr. Camdessus's fiercest opponents are in Germany, where both the government and the Bundesbank say a general allocation of funds is both superfluous and an inflationary danger.

"There is no global need for a general allocation,"

crops up in numerous official German speeches.

The Bundesbank is so opposed to creating new money that it has even proposed giving up some of its own SDRs to hand to eastern Europe. But this plan was rejected.

In the meantime, however, a U.S./U.K. compromise proposal for a selective issue of nearly \$24 billion worth of SDRs just for the newcomers is gaining support among industrialised countries and would be acceptable for Germany.

One official German source said, "this is something we could live with and it has found broad favour among industrialised countries." But it was not yet clear whether the developing world would think it enough.

"I hope they will come round," the source said. During the economic discussions in Madrid, Germany, often the butt of criticism at international financial meetings, is unlikely to be in the dock.

The Bonn government expects the German economy to grow by 2.5 per cent in 1994 and by three per cent next year, inflation is likely to fall to two per cent next year from three per cent now and the budget deficit is falling.

Economists said a pre-IMF Madrid meeting of Group of Seven finance ministers, scheduled for Oct. 2, is likely to produce the usual calls for more cooperation and continued efforts to rein in government finances.

The Bundesbank would probably be encouraged to trim interest rates a little further, but not to an extent that markets would feel it was giving up on inflation.

And the U.S. Federal Reserve would be told that its policy of interest rate rises to cool an overheating economy and nip inflation in the bud was the right approach.

Clinton warns of sanctions Japan ignores threat

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton warned Japanese Foreign Minister Yohsei Kono Thursday that Tokyo had one last week to open its markets or risk U.S. sanctions.

Japan brushed off the threat, insisting it wants trade peace and not war, and aides said the two sides swapped new proposals on one key sector in a bid to break the impasse.

Mr. Clinton stressed "his firm commitment to opening Japanese markets to American goods and services," the White House said in a statement after the hour-long Clinton-Kono meeting.

"The president emphasised that unless agreements are reached under the framework agreement by the Sept. 30 deadline, he will have to consider remedies under U.S. trade laws," the White House said. For "remedies" read trade sanctions.

Mr. Clinton and his top advisers met Tuesday to run through an options list of punitive strikes, ready to act should no breakthrough emerge. The group will reconvene next week to take stock of progress in this latest round of talks.

"We still have a number of things to work out, it is going to be a difficult negotiation," Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told reporters.

The optimum outcome may prove to be a partial deal and partial sanctions, although much can change in the final week.

Seeking a way out of the morass, Mr. Kono scheduled a third day of talks with U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor.

"Yesterday and today, each side submitted proposals and we will continue discussions tomorrow," said an aide to Mr. Kantor. A Japanese aide said the two men met one-on-one and concentrated on trying to strike a public procurement deal. The proposals were discussed and he said both men agreed to weigh the respec-

tive offers ahead of Friday's meeting, leading a more positive note to the negotiations.

Mr. Kono also brushed off Mr. Clinton's sanctions threat, telling reporters he did not believe it would prove necessary.

But should no deal emerge, glass, car parts and government procurement could all come under attack, U.S. sources said.

One U.S. official said the two sides were "very, very close" to agreement on insurance and public procurement, while stressing the talks were at "an extremely delicate stage."

"We're far from a deal on autos, miles and miles apart, and right now we probably can't get anything on glass," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Clinton has two demands.

First, he wants Tokyo to be fair when it awards government contracts in telecommunications and medical technology. Without a breakthrough, Japan will face retaliatory sanctions.

Second, Tokyo could face accusations of discrimination on a number of fronts as part of the Super 301 law, which would trigger months of negotiations under the threat of sanctions.

Barring a breakthrough, the 301 option looks all but sure, with glass and car parts the top candidates.

Some voices in the administration, however, have voiced concerns about drawing on the unilateral 301 arsenal, fearing Washington could be branded a pariah by its trading partners.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you will be able to charm others by the attention and interest you indicate in their welfare and activities. The triple Moon trine to Neptune, Uranus and the Sun keeps things moving on track.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) All kinds of tasks can be handled today, whether at home or in the outside world. Get an early start on them and you will be ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go to the beauty or barber shop today and improve your appearance to look more charming and successful. Get about socially and make new contacts.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many small tasks are awaiting your attention at home, so get right at them and they are soon out of the way and behind of you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a fine day for handling correspondence, statements, travel plans, etc. Then you can get out and go visiting good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle any accounts and reports for which you have had little time during the busy week. Take any needed health treatments to feel good.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Improve your appearance and then handle personal problems wisely. Know who it is you want in your life for the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Those petty annoyances in your life need to be handled meticulously now and gotten rid of quickly. Money can't buy everything.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is important that you handle every item precisely when going after your special goals if you are to make headway in your progress.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Getting shopping, marketing and other outside duties handled early is wise. Don't procrastinate or nothing will get accomplished.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Some new interest can be investigated today. Get at this early and find the right sources of data you need for a new assignment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some special attention to business and financial affairs now can make the days ahead much brighter. Handle small duties now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to have greater accord with associates in the future and gain their added cooperation. Carry through meticulously any details.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

Across

- 1 Gamut
- 2 Accord
- 3 Had markers on
- 4 Card of fortune
- 5 Indian
- 6 Tabular parts
- 7 Regarding
- 8 Telescope piece
- 9 Not enough
- 10 Bawling out
- 11 The seven
- 12 Bush's HUD secretary
- 13 Red wine
- 14 Colored
- 15 Mischief maker
- 16 One-million
- 17 Give off
- 18 Unacquainted
- 19 Panacea
- 20 State abet
- 21 Panacea
- 22 Coup
- 23 Seldom treatment, briefly
- 24 Scrape with a
- 25 Form or corn start
- 26 A mean Amn
- 27 Policy payment abbr.
- 28 Address flig
- 29 Visually
- 30 "Of Eden"
- 31 Jewbreaker's len
- 32 Archaic
- 33 "Love her"
- 34 Death garment
- 35 A Roosevelt
- 36 Tiger Mervyn
- 37 Film director
- 38 Kurosawa
- 39 Small bird
- 40 Tavern drink
- 41 Leaving
- 42 Down
- 43 Delta, briefly
- 44 Prigme
- 45 Where the action is
- 46 Viking vessel

5 Words by Caesar

- 6 Carroussel
- 7 TV's "The"
- 8 Form a cabal
- 9 "Entertainment"
- 10 "Nightly host"
- 11 Wild parties
- 12 List among abbr.
- 13 Stamping device
- 14 (supplement)
- 15 Beech
- 16 Color-gel score
- 17 Crofts
- 18 Perfected
- 19 Welcome sight
- 20 Nicholas Gage book
- 21 Small
- 22 One of resistance
- 23 Potato
- 24 Nounshad
- 25 Group of judges
- 26 Junior, usually
- 27 Fable sorry for
- 28 Brawl
- 29 Hailer Ryan
- 30 Color again
- 31 Open courts
- 32 Astronomers
- 33 Pick up the
- 34 Mafly in love
- 35 "Do as"
- 36 Comp. pt.
- 37 Crew meet

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYTHE

HORAB

MUGNIP

SAHDIR

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIMY CRAFT OMELET FAMISH THEIR TIME

Answer: What some take when they go shopping —

China summons Japan's ambassador to protest Taiwan Asian Games presence

BEIJING (AP) — The foreign ministry has rebuked Japan's ambassador over his government's decision to let a Taiwanese official attend next month's Asian Games in Hiroshima, official reports said Friday.

Tian Zengpei, the vice foreign minister, summoned Japanese Ambassador Michiko Kunihiro Thursday to lodge a second formal protest over the issue, the reports said.

The continued war of words has ensnared Japan in the rivalry between Beijing and Taipei and made it increasingly difficult for Tokyo to find a face-saving compromise.

China threatened to boycott the games after the Olympic Council of Asia invited Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to attend the opening session. The council later appeared to cancel

Lee's invitation, saying no political figures could attend the games in Hiroshima, Japan.

Japan's foreign ministry said last week that Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-teh was invited to the Oct. 2 opening ceremony, not as a politician but as a sports official — a member of the preparatory committee for Taiwan's bid to hold the Asian Games in 2002.

But Beijing protested that plan as well, saying it violated Japan's commitment to only "one China," ruled by Beijing.

Tian told Kunihiro that regardless of the capacity in which Hsu travelled to Hiroshima, the trip would have a political purpose, the people's daily and Beijing daily reported.

"The Chinese side deeply regrets this decision," the newspapers quoted him as

saying. Taipei's nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the communists on the mainland. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and requires that all nations that have normal ties with Beijing sever their formal relations with Taipei.

Tian told the Japanese ambassador that Japan was to blame for the controversy over the Hiroshima Games and said he hoped Tokyo would abide by its promise to recognise only one China.

"Otherwise Sino-Japanese relations will suffer setbacks," the reports quoted him as saying.

Officials at the Japanese embassy in Beijing and at the foreign ministry in Tokyo were not available for comment Friday because of a Japanese national holiday.

On Thursday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Chen Jian declined to say whether China would stay away from Hiroshima if Hsu attended. However, the manager of a Chinese yacht team already in Hiroshima told Japanese reporters that the team would boycott the games if Taiwan did not back down.

"At least the yacht team will return to the country in protest," Dai Shiqiang told Japan's Kyodo news service. China has already requested permission for the landing of five charter planes to carry Chinese teams to Hiroshima, indicating that Beijing still plans to attend, Kyodo reported.

China usually dominates many events at the Asian Games, and the absence of its 700-some athletes would be a severe embarrassment for Japan.



CHARITY GAME: U.S. basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson passes the ball during a charity game to raise funds for fight AIDS against the "Best of Levallois-Antibes, Thursday." This was the last game of Johnson's European tour. The "Magic All Stars" won 130-104 (AFP photo).

Hill flips Williams in Portugal

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Gerhard Berger provided the speed and Damon Hill added the drama Friday as the two filled the provisional front row for the Portuguese Grand Prix.

Hill evoked gasps but escaped injury when his Williams-Renault flipped upside down during the final moments of Friday's qualifying session.

The Jordan-Hart of Northern Ireland's Eddie Irvine appeared to skid out of control, spin and clip Hill's car. It vaulted the Williams into the air, where it somersaulted and landed upside down in a cloud in the sand beside the track.

The crash enabled Berger to put his Ferrari on the pole with a lap of 1 minute, 20.608 seconds on the 4.36-kilometre (2.725-mile) Fernando Pires da Silva circuit in this coastal resort outside Lisbon.

Before his crash, Hill drove within 0.195 seconds behind of the Austrian, ahead of teammate and countryman David Coulthard, who ran his best lap in 1:21.120.

Finland's Mika Hakkinen was another 0.131 back in his McLaren and was followed by Frenchman Jean Alesi in the other Ferrari (1:21.517), Japan's Ukyo Katayama in a Tyrrell-Yamaha (1:21.590), Martin Brundle of Britain in the other McLaren-Peugeot (1:21.656), and the Jordan-Hart of Brazilian Rubens Barrichello (1:21.839).

Final starting positions will be decided in Saturday's second qualifying session.

Hill's mishap was the latest in a series of dramatic crashes this season, including one that took the life of Williams driver Ayrton Senna at San Marino.

Hill's helmet hit the ground as the car landed, but he walked away from the crash and did not need a medical checkup.

"Considering it was the first time I'd been upside down in a Formula One car, I'd say it went rather well," quipped the Briton.

Race stewards exonerated Irvine of any blame for the crash, as did Hill.

He said he had held the Williams to the right of the course, hoping the skidding Irvine would pass him without making contact. He did not blame Irvine for the crash.

"It was kind of unavoidable," said Hill. "We can laugh because I'm not hurt, but I wouldn't want to do it too often."

Hill is second in the Formula One drivers' championship and needs a victory in Portugal to close within a point of Benetton's Michael Schumacher, who is sitting out the second of a two-race ban this weekend. Three races remain on the calendar after Sunday's event.

The 24-year-old son of the late Formula One great Graham Hill, Damon seemed relaxed at Friday's session, having signed a new deal last week with Williams for next season.

One person who was convinced of Hill's and Williams' ability to shake off Friday's crash and to triumph Sunday was Berger.

"I know many people don't like to hear it, but they are quicker than us," Berger said. "They are more consistent... they have to stress the material more than us to go consistently fast."

The Austrian claimed that his Ferrari 412 T1B was still slow out of corners, but predicted gradual technical improvements being made to the car would bear fruit still this season.

"I'm confident that in the last four Grands Prix we'll do some good races," Berger said.

Ferrari has one victory this season, Berger's win at the German Grand Prix July 31. Alesi started from the pole at Ferrari's home track of Monza two weeks ago, but mechanical problems forced him to retire after only 14 laps.

Hill won that race with Berger about five seconds behind.

Changes to the Estoril Circuit this year, which include the tight, first-gear bend where Hill crashed, drew a mixed reaction from the drivers.

"There were several near misses and then I got hit by a car, that's enough of a reason" to find fault, Hill said.

Hakkinen also said the new, slow corners "make driving very strange," but acknowledged the course was now safer.

French player confirms doping ban

PARIS (R) — Bastia midfielder Stephane Ziani has revealed his identity as the French player handed a one-month suspended ban for doping last season — when he was with fellow first division side Nantes.

"After the Auxerre-Nantes match on April 1, 1994, I tested positive for salbutamol. Suffering from asthma since I was a child, I am obliged to take ventoline," the 22-year-old French youth international said in a statement published by the sports

daily L'Equipe on Friday. Ziani, who joined promoted Bastia at the start of this season, added that the ventoline, which contains the banned substance salbutamol used to cure asthma, had been prescribed to him by Nantes' medical staff.

Ziani's statement made public the identity of the player after L'Equipe had revealed Tuesday that a then anonymous member of a first division side had been secretly suspended last season.

French federation President Claude Simonet, who confirmed the case to Reuter Tuesday, declined to name the player, the club or the substance taken.

Nantes Manager Robert Budzinski told L'Equipe that Ziani had suffered from asthma since he joined the club as a trainee at the age of 10. Ziani said the lenient sanction he had been given proved he had no intention of enhancing his performance.

Salbutamol was at the centre of a doping controversy in France last month when it was revealed that four times Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain tested positive after taking ventoline to ease breathing problems. The Spanish rider was later cleared by the French Cycling Federation.

Salbutamol is a banned substance under International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules on doping unless it is being used as part of a medical treatment, to cure for instance.

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Tottenham ground ban on coach Venables stays

LONDON (R) — Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar said Thursday he would continue to bar England coach Terry Venables from entering the club's White Hart Lane ground until he apologised for statements in his autobiography.

"Asked when Venables might return, Sugar told a sports writers' lunch: "Not until he apologises to me for all the rubbish he wrote about me in his book."

Venables' autobiography was published Thursday and contains a detailed account of his bitter tussles at Tottenham with computer tycoon Sugar.

The two joined forces to save Spurs when the club were in financial difficulties. But they split amid acrimony which ended with Venables being ousted from the chief executive's job last year.

Venables is now suing Sugar for unfair dismissal but the quotable chairman, advising an out-of-court settlement, insisted on Thursday: "We're not going to give him any money. I'll settle with him, have a little tango with him or a game of tennis or buy him a drink."

"But if you're talking about whether we'll give him any money, the answer is no."

Venables, a player, manager and then chief executive with Tottenham, was appointed England coach in January this year.

He writes in his autobiography: "I would have swapped everything, even the England job, for the chance to be back at Spurs... but a Spurs free of Sugar's baleful influence."

Sugar still admires Venables the coach, saying: "One of the reasons I bought Tottenham was because he was involved. I believed what I read in the newspapers, that he was God's gift."



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lent has helped to smooth over troubled times off the pitch. The club were heavily punished by the F.A. earlier this year following irregular payments to players from 1984 to 1989.

The original punishment was adjusted on appeal by an F.A. commission to a six-point deduction with a £1.5 million (\$2.37 million) fine. A 1994-95 F.A. Cup ban remained.

Sugar is claiming the F.A. have acted beyond their powers and Wednesday he launched a fresh bid to overturn the ruling with the final decision being made by an arbitration committee.

Despite their highly publicised off-pitch troubles, the club, widely tipped for relegation after a dismal performance last season, have confounded many of their critics.

They have gained a reputation for fast, attacking football, although the defence remains shaky.

On Wednesday Premier League Spurs beat First Division Watford 6-3 in a League Cup tie. Klinsmann scored three, taking his total to 10 in seven games.

Sugar said Thursday rumours that he had signed Klinsmann without the knowledge of manager Ossie Ardiles were untrue.

UEFA to help clubs heavily in debt

STOCKHOLM (R) — UEFA, concerned that some of Europe's clubs are verging on bankruptcy as huge transfer fees and bad deals force more into excessive debt, are drawing up guidelines to try to help them get out of the red.

European soccer's governing body decided Thursday to lend their expertise and guidance to national associations on how to handle heavily indebted clubs.

UEFA want the football associations to take a firmer line with clubs which are sliding further into debt and prevent others making financial commitments they cannot meet.

"A lot of second and third division clubs are buying expensive players they can't afford to pay," said UEFA press officer Salvatore Cuccu, who cited France as an example. "There is a concern that some clubs may go bankrupt."

"UEFA is concerned that national associations do not know how to cope with this problem and feel it is time to

help."

UEFA said in a statement that associations were responsible for monitoring the financial management of their clubs and that they were authorised to do this.

Cuccu said UEFA would draw up guidelines to advise associations how to help clubs with no skills in financial management.

"We want to help them not to invest in deals they cannot afford. Not all associations have the same knowledge about how to deal with financial matters, especially when they

have a lot of problems."

He said the problem was growing in most of Europe's leagues.

"It is an overall problem and the clubs are not few in number," Cuccu said.

"Many associations are not in a situation to decide what to do about these clubs. Some have asked us to help, and UEFA believes it has the experience to provide that help."

"We want the associations to improve their relationships with the clubs."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A106 ♣J10 ♠AQJ872 ♠63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠984 ♣Q72 ♠AQJ872 ♠63
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
- Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠7 ♣963 ♠AK10982 ♠A102
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A106 ♣J10 ♠AQJ872 ♠63
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A852 ♣A94 ♠J53 ♠J75
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠4 ♣1095 ♠10752 ♠AK762
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

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- Willing to take the challenge

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Mystery deaths suspend Queensland horse races

BRISBANE (R) — Major weekend horse racing events in the Australian state of Queensland were cancelled Friday after a mystery illness resulted in the deaths of 11 race horses, 10 in one stable.

Transport of horses was also banned in a wide area of south-east Queensland and several stables were placed under quarantine, Queensland Racing Minister Bob Gibbs said.

"Detailed laboratory analysis carried out following autopsies on the horses which have died, has so far not identified the cause of death," Gibbs said in a statement.

"However, veterinary officers believe it is likely the animals have suffered from a viral infection, with an incubating period over four days, and they have advised a containment policy," he added that laboratory testing

was continuing. Ten horses died over a three day period this week in the racing stables of Brisbane trainer Vic Rail, who is himself in a critical condition in hospital suffering from a mystery illness.

One horse at a neighbouring stable also died. All suffered from a rapid increase of fluid in their lungs and either suffocated or had to be destroyed.

Five other horses in Rail's stables were still ill on Friday. The total value of the losses was not known.

There was nothing to suggest a link between Rail's illness and the deaths of the horses, Gibbs told Australia's ABC radio.

The ruling covers all gallop and trot meetings in south-east Queensland, where the major race events in the state are held.

Sanchez Vicario, Sabatani go through in Japanese tourney

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and number four seed Gabriela Sabatini took contrasting routes into the semifinals of the Nishinomiya women's tournament Friday.

But sixth seeded German Sabine Hack was tumbled out by unseeded local favourite Nana Miyagi who won a closely contested quarterfinal battle 7-6 7-5.

Miyagi, however, will have little time to relish her status as the only remaining Japanese contestant in the tournament.

points in the second set and barely surviving the third to win 6-3 6-7 7-5.

"The match was very close — it could have been for her. But I never gave up and just kept fighting ... without thinking about winning or losing," said the Argentine, who faces American Amy Frazier in the other semifinal.

In the final set, Sabatini found herself trailing Sugiyama 3-5 and just two points away from elimination.

"She just went for the shots. I was surprised by the way she played — her ground strokes are very, very good," Sabatini said.

But the gritty game of the unheralded Sugiyama fell apart as she succumbed to a bout of nerves, double faulted, and let the Argentine

slunk back into the game.

Frazier, the seventh seed, beat Japan's Mana Endo 6-2 7-5.

Sanchez Vicario stayed on course for her seventh title of the season.

Her match with Werdel was a far cry from their encounter last month in San Diego in which the American severely extended the world number two in a tight three-set battle.

"The difference between that match and today is that I played much more consistently and stronger today than I did in San Diego," Sanchez Vicario said.

Kafelnikov gives Russia early lead over Germany

Davis Cup

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Bernd Karbacher was out-gunned on his Davis Cup debut by big-hitting Yevgeny Kafelnikov as Russia took a 1-0 lead over defending champions Germany in the opening singles of their semifinal Friday.

Kafelnikov, nicknamed "Kashnikov" in tennis circles because of his deadly power, came off best 7-6 6-1 2-6 6-4 in a match in which both players made errors on key points.

Kafelnikov's power on the hard court eventually helped him to a victory which put extra pressure on Germany's former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich to make sure of the second singles against Alexander Volkov.

The Germans, who have taken a risk in staging the tie outdoors in September, were delighted to see bright sunshine and blue skies over the Rothenbaum complex for the

mid-morning start. The weather is forecast to get worse over the weekend, however.

The home side had also put down a faster hard court on the clay-court surface. But Karbacher and Kafelnikov began their opening singles pinned at the back of the court as though the slow red clay was still on the ground.

The first set was riddled with errors as both players struggled to take the initiative. Karbacher hit a backhand into the net to drop his serve in the fifth game before battling back in break the Russian's serve and level at 4-4.

But when the set went to a tie-break, Karbacher's game fell apart. The German hit a forehand into the net to give

Kafelnikov the tie-break 7-2 after a 54-minute first set. Kafelnikov seemed to be running away with the match when he raced through the second set 6-1 in just 24 minutes. After dropping his serve in the second game, Karbacher seemed to be overcome by Kafelnikov's power.

But the 26-year-old German found his way back into the match in the third set. A double-fault by Kafelnikov gave the German an early break and a 2-0 lead. The Russian double-faulted again to give the German the set 6-2.

Both players dropped their serve in the early part of the fourth set before Kafelnikov made the key break to lead 3-2. He then served out for the match after two and a half hours when Karbacher hit the ball out of the back of the court.

Congress urges end to baseball strike

WASHINGTON (R) — Major League Baseball owners and players were warned Thursday to settle a strike that cut short this season and cancelled the world series for the first time in 90 years or congress would have to act.

"The parties-in-interest may have run away from their obligations to the fans of the country for a few months but they can't run away from congress for long," said Jack Brooks, chairman of the house of representative judiciary committee.

Brooks delivered his message to acting commissioner Bud Selig and players' negotiator Donald Fehr at a hearing.

"We in congress must now step up to the plate," he said.

The players went on strike August 12 to protest a plan by owners to impose a cap on salaries. The owners last week cancelled the rest of the regular season, and the post-season playoffs and World Series matching the champions of the American and national leagues.

It was the eighth time in the last 22 years that play has been stopped by a labour dispute and the first time since 1904 that the World Series will not be played.

"I think both sides have acted like spoiled children," said Oklahoma Democrat Mike Synar, while New York Republican Hamilton Fish told Selig and Fehr, "It is not just your game, the game belongs to all Americans."

Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Orel Hershiser, testifying for the players, said, "I can assure you we would prefer to be playing baseball rather than appearing before this committee."

Hershiser said the players wanted congress to repeal baseball's antitrust exemption, granted by the supreme court in 1922, so they would have equal rights with other U.S. professional athletes to take labour disputes to court. Some committee members agreed.

"By doing nothing, we are allowing the owners a special entitlement," Colorado Democrat Patricia Schroeder said.

Brooks, a Texas Democrat, said he would support Synar's ending baseball's antitrust exemption.

He said the bill might not pass before congress adjourns for the year next month, but there would be time to act next year if the strike was threatening the 1995 season.

"I would remind the parties that the (next) congress is scheduled to convene before spring training begins and well before the scheduled season opening on April 2," Brooks said.

No positive dope tests at world championships

LAUSANNE (R) — The International Swimming Federation (FINA) said Friday 169 dope tests were conducted at this month's world championships in Rome and none were positive.

Coaches highlighted widespread concern about drugs in swimming at the end of the 11-day championships, saying doping threatened the future of the sport.

"The apparent re-emergence of performance enhancing drugs, especially in women's competition, constitutes the single greatest threat to the progress and integrity of our sport," coaches and team managers from 18 nations said in a statement.

The women's events were dominated by China, who won 12 of the 16 women's swimming titles and broke five world records in the process.

The coaches made no specific reference to China in their Rome statement and Canada's Dave Johnson said doping was a world problem. But U.S. women's coach Richard Quick said the Chinese results were "a sham."

Four Chinese women swimmers, three of them in-

ternationals, have been suspended following positive dope tests in the past two years. A few top swimmers from other countries, including the U.S. and Germany, have also received suspensions in the past.

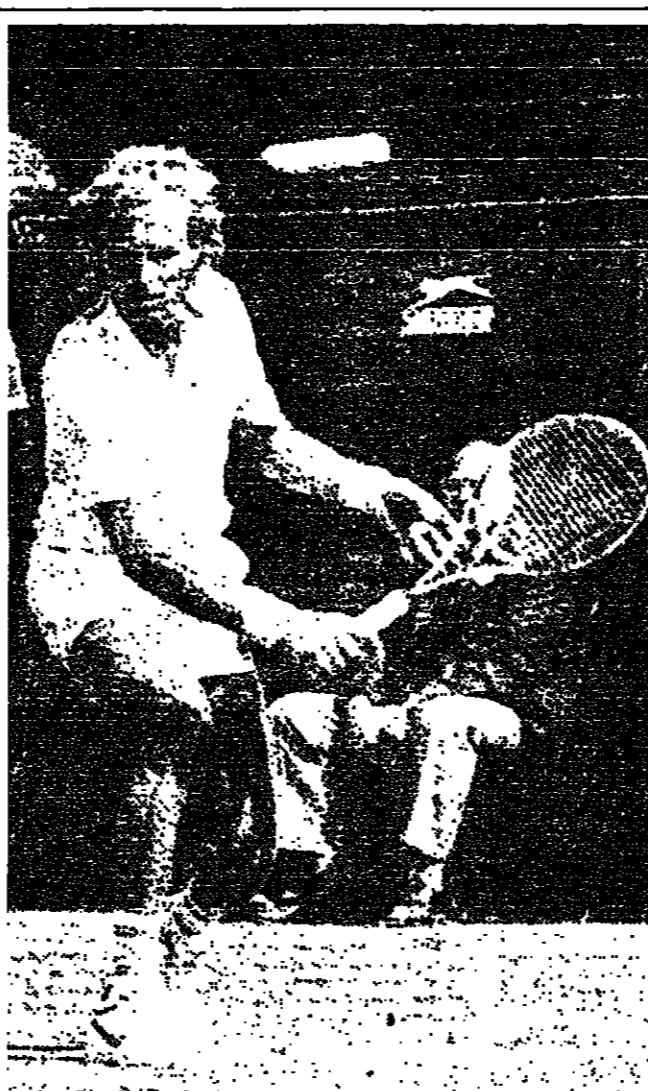
FINA refused to say before the championships began how many tests they planned to carry out in Rome, saying numbers were kept confidential to prevent anyone from working out the statistical likelihood of being tested.

The federation said in a statement Friday: "The 169 doping control tests carried out during the VII Swimming World Championships ... were all negative."

All winners were tested in the five disciplines of the championships — swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming — plus world record-breakers in swimming and other medalists and finalists.

"FINA intends to continue the fight against doping both in and out of competitions."

At the preceding world championships in Perth in January 1991, the Australian sports drug agency said 128 tests had been conducted, including 50 on medalists. None were positive.



Vitas Gerulaitis

Tennis greats gather to say goodbye to Gerulaitis

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. (AP)

— Tennis greats gathered Thursday morning for the funeral of Vitas Gerulaitis, a ceremony that turned into an emotional odyssey of mirth, sorrow and memory.

"Forty years was not long enough for Vitas to live, but it was enough to leave a lasting impression on all of us," Jimmy Connors told the congregation at St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in this Long Island community.

"Life is for the living, and Vitas gave us examples on how to do it. Vitas was my friend," Connors said from the lectern. "I loved him and I'll miss him." Then he began to sob.

Gerulaitis, once ranked as high as no. 3 in the world, was found dead Sunday of carbon monoxide poisoning apparently caused by a malfunctioning heating system.

The most prominent of his 350 mourners Thursday were the three men who always stood between him and no. 1: Connors, Bjorn Borg and

John McEnroe.

The later, one of the pallbearers, was unshaven. He looked dazed and despondent, and cried during the 90-minute funeral mass.

But it wasn't entirely solemn; television commentator Mary Carillo brought down the house with stories from Gerulaitis' life and career; others made fun of Gerulaitis' admittedly less-than-great second serve.

Recalling Gerulaitis' 21st birthday at a hotel on the road, Carillo said "He wasn't one to stick a candle in a cupcake and call it a birthday."

Instead, he invited everyone in the hotel, and many came in pajamas. The party spilled into the parking lot. Windows were broken, a bathtub was cracked and carpeting was torn up.

"If he had anything to say in today's proceedings," Carillo said, "he would have told all of us to wear our pajamas."

"His legacy is laughter," Carillo said. "We all have to tell each other stories about him. We have to keep him alive."

But she did allude to Gerulaitis' struggles with cocaine and his unsettled years after retiring from the tennis tour. "The golden sun didn't shine for a while, and it was rough," she said. "But he showed up recently and he was even better than always."

He also took up golf, and recently hit what his sister Ruta described as "five pure shots" with the 5-iron he took to his grave.

Others who attended included tennis stars Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Virginia Wade and actress Janet Jones, who once dated Gerulaitis.

"He was much more than a world-class tennis player," said Jones, the wife of hockey star Wayne Gretzky. "His game in life was always to give, never to take."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Queen attend horse show

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Friday attended part of the activities of the Fifth International Arabian Horse Home Show held at the Royal Stables. King Hussein distributed trophies and medals to winners in competitions. Her Royal Highness Princess Iman Bint Al Hussein took the first place in the youth showjumping competition and second in the kangaroo rider competition. The activities of the day were also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, president of the Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, and several members of the royal family and officials. The five-day championship started Tuesday.

Police believe Palestinian killed woman

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Jewish woman found dead in her apartment on Friday is believed by police to have been killed by a Palestinian. Natasha Ivanova, a 30-year-old immigrant from Russia, was found in her bedroom in the coastal town of Ashdod after police had been tipped off by a man claiming to have murdered her in the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, deputy commander Tzafir Nir told Israel Television. He would not release details of the killings.

Police uncover tunnels in Gaza

RAFAH (AP) — Palestinian police closed down 11 tunnels used as underground routes between Gaza and Egypt to smuggle weapons, drugs and activists on the run from Israeli authorities. Palestinian police commander Nasr Yousef told reporters that drugs had been discovered and smugglers' networks broken up. "We are using an iron fist against all those who pose a threat to our security," he said. Palestinian underground activists constructed the tunnels as escape routes to Egypt during the six-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Some tunnels stretch several hundred metres from the centre of Rafah across the frontier into Egypt, police sources said.

Al Islah party elects council

SANAA (AFP) — The Muslim fundamentalist party Al Islah, one of three parties forming Yemen's ruling coalition, Friday elected a 100-member consultative council at a general congress here, delegates said. The party's chief ideologist Sheikh Abdul Majid Zindani was among those elected, gaining more than 2,000 votes. He is one of the five members of Yemen's ruling presidential council. The consultative council, or majlis shura, is due to elect a 15-member political bureau to steer the party before the congress ends Saturday. Speaker of the Yemeni Parliament Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar was given a new four-year mandate as party leader Wednesday, a day after the congress opened.

Opposition paper published in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The first Palestinian newspaper to align itself with the opposition to the peace process appeared in the Gaza Strip on Friday, with the blessing of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "Palestine," published by a journalist associated with the Hamas fundamentalist group, featured an interview with a Hamas man on the run from the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and a report on crime in the streets of Gaza. The tabloid, which intends to move from weekly to daily frequency soon, also covered more sensational stories, like that of a father accused of killing his newborn daughter because she was not born a boy. The opinion page featured pro- and anti-peace agreement editorials.

Too many foreign workers in Lebanon — Hrawi

BEIRUT (AFP) — President Elias Hrawi said Friday there were too many foreign workers in Lebanon and they were taking more than \$1 billion out of the country each year. "It is unacceptable that there are 700,000 of them (out of a population of three million) and they are taking \$1.2 billion a year out of the country in foreign currency," Lebanese newspapers quoted Mr. Hrawi as saying during a meeting with the head of the journalists' union. "There is not a single building site without foreign workers. All domestic workers are foreigners and not one Lebanese wants to do the job." He said the Lebanese thought such work was humiliating or dirty.

Aziz to meet Arab League chief

CAIRO (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is to meet the Arab League chief, Esmat Abdul Meguid, in New York to seek the organisation's help in lifting the U.N. embargo. Arab diplomats here said Friday. "The possibility of an Arab League initiative aimed at alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people and lifting the embargo against Iraq... will be at the centre of this meeting," said one diplomat, asking not to be named. The meeting, at the request of Mr. Aziz, was to take place on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, which opened on Tuesday. The diplomats gave no date for the encounter.

Palestinians get 6 million ECUs in aid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The European Union on Thursday formally allocated the equivalent of some \$7.5 million in loans for various projects in the autonomous Palestinian territories of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the Palestinian JMC news agency said. The loans of some \$6 million European Currency Units (ECUs) is part of an overall 80 million ECU package approved in principle three years ago. The loans will be granted to four Palestinian credit companies which are to invest in agricultural, technical education and other projects.

Israeli police prepare for Haiti mission

BEIT DAGON (R) — Thirty Israeli police officers received pistols, pills and flak jackets on Thursday in preparation for their departure to Haiti, where they will join a U.N.-sanctioned multinational force. "You will need to draw on your sensitivity and experience," Israeli Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz told the group at a ceremony near Tel Aviv. "The aim of the force is to supervise (Haitian police). It is not structured for confrontations." Their departure on Sunday will mark the first time Israel has sent police on an overseas mission. The officers, including two women, were issued Israeli-made Jericho pistols, pills against tropical diseases and flak jackets. Gabi Amir, former Israeli prisons commissioner, heads the group, which is scheduled to spend up to three months in Haiti.

Rabin hit by egg in town near Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was hit on the hand by an egg thrown Thursday by ultra-orthodox demonstrators in the town of Roch Ha Aym near Tel Aviv, police said. Mr. Rabin had come to receive an honorary citizenship in the town but about 100 radicals who follow Rabbi Uzi Meuchoulam met and insulted him. The rabbi has been in prison for several months. One demonstrator threw an egg at the prime minister. In the melee, a member of Mr. Rabin's entourage Shimon Sheves, director general of his office, was slightly wounded in the head by a firecracker, police said. Rabbi Meuchoulam was arrested after holding up several of his faithful in a house in Roch Ha Aym to call for an investigation into the disappearance of Jewish Yemenite children whom he said were kidnapped from their families in the early 1950s to be placed in the families of Jews from Europe.

Serbs attack U.N. despite NATO strike

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces have increased attacks on U.N. peacekeepers since North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes destroyed a Serb tank in the weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo, U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said on Friday.

U.S. A-10 Warthog tank buster planes and British Jaguar bombers hit the T-55 tank on Thursday after a series of Serb attacks on U.N. soldiers and vehicles.

The Bosnia Serb (BAS) command, which earlier claimed to have complied with a U.N. order to remove banned heavy weapons from the zone immediately threatened retaliation, "the time and place of which will be set in the future."

Mr. Tim Spicer said the BAS followed up with more attacks after the air strike but described the overall military situation as stable.

"After the (air) attack, the direct targeting of the U.N. by the BAS has increased in the Gorazde pocket (east of Sarajevo)," he told reporters. "Sector southwest and Bihac (northwest Bosnia)

have also seen some provocations."

The air strike was the first for several weeks and followed growing frustration over the Serbs' blatant flouting of the ban on artillery, tanks and heavy mortars trained on civilians.

This culminated in a heavy casualty toll at the weekend in the worst Serb shelling of mainly-Muslim Sarajevo since February when the exclusion zone was imposed. Two people died and 18 were wounded.

French General Andre Soubirou authorised the attack after the Serbs hit a French U.N. armoured vehicle and seriously wounded the driver who was evacuated to Paris for treatment.

Gen. Soubirou said he was "very happy because the man survived... he is a very lucky man."

The U.N. gave the BAS two days' notice of possible air attack and 30 minutes warning of the warplanes' arrival "so there would be no human casualties." The tank was thought to have been unmanned when it was blown apart.

Although Russia, a mem-

ber of the big power contact group which has drawn up a peace plan for Bosnia, has criticised NATO air intervention before, it backed the latest attack.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said U.N. peacekeepers, who include Russian troops, had to be defended with all possible means and added:

"The Muslims are resorting to provocative acts, to attacks. But the Bosnian Serbs, as always, are reacting inappropriately, overdoing it substantially."

Mr. Kozyrev's remarks were further evidence of his impatience with the hardline Bosnian Serbs who are undermining Russian peace-making designed to reestablish Moscow's international diplomatic clout.

A Western diplomat in Zagreb discounted the BAS threat to retaliate against the U.N. saying: "The past evidence shows that the Serbs are rather scared of NATO."

Other analysts dismissed the U.N.'s new toughness as "too little, too late." They doubted whether it would have a lasting effect on the Bosnian Serbs who have re-

jected a big power peace plan that would force them to disgorge war conquests.

Residents of Sarajevo, where 10,000 people have been killed under 29 months of siege by the better armed Serbs, praised NATO but called for even sterner action.

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic said the air strike was "good but not good enough... the international community should not play tit-for-tat with the Serbs but hit them in such a way that they do not dare attack U.N. soldiers again."

City policeman Sefik Dautovic told Reuters: "It was about time the U.N. got serious and showed they are really with the people of Sarajevo, not just passive observers who are counting the shells."

The United Nations said that its forces had been attacked 15 times before the NATO strike on Thursday.

This is the greatest number of deliberate attacks against the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in a 24-hour period, observers said.

Aid flights suspended into Sarajevo before the NATO

warplane attack will resume on Saturday morning if sponsor countries feel it is safe enough to fly in, U.N. officials said.

The airbridge is the only means of regular supply for the city.

Spokesman Kris Janowski for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the situation in Sarajevo was already "extremely difficult" after nine days without electricity, water and gas supplies.

He said relief officials extended the airlift supplying the capital's 380,000 residents for another 24 hours as of Friday while countries handling the flights — the United States, Canada, France, Britain and Germany — would decide in Geneva whether security conditions at the airport here warranted their resumption this weekend.

Mr. Janowski said UNHCR food reserves here would allow regular distribution for another two weeks but once the airbridge reopens daily flights would be necessary to stock up before the difficult winter season.

COLUMN

Terry Anderson sues for records

WASHINGTON (R) — Former hostage Terry Anderson filed suit Thursday against 11 government agencies for refusing to turn over documents related to his abduction in Beirut in March, 1985 and his seven years of imprisonment. The former Associated Press chief Middle East correspondent is suing in U.S. Federal District Court to gain access to the documents, naming the CIA, the FBI, State Department and other agencies. Mr. Anderson told reporters that he has filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for government documents, but many of the documents he has received are so heavily censored as to be useless. He showed letters from government agencies telling him all the information should remain secret and he needs the notarised signatures of his captors, the Islamic Jihad or Hizbollah, before he can obtain any information on them because of U.S. privacy laws. "Who am I supposed to call to get that?" he asks. "Their public relations department?" He has published a book about his experience, Den of Lions, while working at Columbia University's Freedom Forum media studies centre. Mr. Anderson was abducted after playing tennis on March 16, 1985 and released in December 1991 after protracted negotiations, marking the end of a spree of kidnapping dramas that began in 1983. Seventeen Americans as well as a number of Europeans were held hostage by pro-Iranian factions.

Mr. Anderson said UNHCR food reserves here would allow regular distribution for another two weeks but once the airbridge reopens daily flights would be necessary to stock up before the difficult winter season.

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Iran takes harder line on islands

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's judiciary chief declared Friday that three disputed islands it controls in the southern Gulf are part of the Islamic Republic "forever" and warned Gulf Arab states not to be pushed into confrontation with Tehran.

"Nobody must even imagine that he can question the sovereignty of Iran," Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi declared in a sermon at the weekly Friday prayers session at Tehran University.

He was the second Iranian leader to make hardline statements on the small but strategic islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tams, which are claimed by the United Arab Emirates, in the last few days.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hojatollah Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, warned Wednesday that Iran will "resist to the last and will fear no threats" over the islands.

Their remarks indicated that Tehran is adopting a tougher line on the islands issue.

Ayatollah Yazdi was responding to a Sept. 1 communique by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) urging Iran to allow the World Court to settle the territorial dispute with the UAE.

"Before the United Arab Emirates gained independence, the islands had belonged to and been under the sovereignty of Iran and it is still so, and will remain so for ever," he said.

Addressing those countries which are "under the influence of the global arrogance," the Iranian epithet for the United States, the Ayatollah said they should guard against pressuring the Islamic Republic.

"Once they provoked a person to wage such a strange war," he said, meaning the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

"You saw our eight-year defence and it became clear that the Islamic Republic is not a country whose territorial integrity can be threatened by global arrogance," Ayatollah Yazdi said.

He did not name any country, but he was clearly referring to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which provided Iraq with billions of dollars in economic aid during that 1980-88 conflict as a bastion against Iranian expansion following the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are members of the GCC along with the UAE, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. The Gulf states have said that their relations with Iran cannot improve until the island dispute is settled.

Ayatollah Yazdi said that Iran has repeatedly announced its readiness for dialogue over the islands. But he noted that the United States and its allies, by supporting the UAE claims, seek to justify their military presence in the region.

The Iranians took over Abu Musa two years ago after sharing sovereignty with the UAE for 20 years following the British withdrawal from the Gulf.

U.S. Navy chiefs say that Iran is building fortifications on the flyspeck island, which commands the approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf.



'NEW BEIRUT': View of the Normandy district on the coast of downtown Beirut which will be part of the futuristic project to rebuild the city centre and has been used as a garbage dump since 1975. The discovery of dozens of

barrels of hazardous waste over the past few weeks has once again reminded the Lebanese that their country is far from being the biblical land of milk and honey (AFP photo)

Netanyahu proposes 'strategic consensus' to Jordan

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL and Jordan should reach a "strategic consensus" opposing a PLO state or a confederation of the territories, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu suggested to Crown Prince Hassan at Wednesday meeting in London.

In a phone interview, Netanyahu refused to characterize (Prince) Hassan's reaction to the idea. He would only say, "It was a very warm meeting. There were quite a few areas in which we saw eye-to-eye."

The first public meeting between a high-ranking Jordanian and Likud official lasted approximately three hours and took place at the Jordanian ambassador's London residence.

"I made it clear that I view Palestinian statehood as a

threat to both Israel and Jordan," Netanyahu said. He said a strategic consensus between the two could be broadened to include other Arab countries, as well as non-Arab states like Turkey.

Netanyahu's proposal follows a letter he wrote to (King) Hussein at the time of the breakthrough between the two countries in July, excerpts of which were obtained by the Jerusalem Post.

"It is impossible... to envision a durable solution to the dispute over (the territories) that does not address the national interests of both Jordan and Israel," Netanyahu wrote. "I do not believe that we should rush in to impose solutions like confederation which would be inimical to those interests."

"Instead, we must patiently build from the ground up a

new reality that would encourage peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews from the territories — and ensure the security so vital for our countries and without which a stable peace cannot endure."

Netanyahu said he told (Prince) Hassan that he viewed the "continuity of the Hashemite Kingdom as a vital Israeli interest," noting how King Hussein has taken a "responsible" stance towards Israel over the last two decades.

When asked if this contradicts his past public statements declaring "Jordan is Palestine," Netanyahu said those statements were "descriptive and not prescriptive. I cannot determine who governs Jordan, by my preference would be the Hashemites" given their track record toward Israel.

In public comments, both (Prince) Hassan and Netanyahu went out their way to stress that their talks did not touch on issues under negotiation between the two governments, such as the demarcation of borders and water allocation.

(Prince) Hassan told Israeli and Jordanian journalists after the meeting that he hoped that 1994 would be a "threshold" year for peace. "This meeting is part of our efforts to get to know Israel's political spectrum and its leaders," he told Jordan Television last night.

Netanyahu reportedly informed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the meeting only hours before it occurred, and did not include an Israeli diplomat in the session. Asked if he would brief Rabin, Netanyahu would only say: "Perhaps."

Two Egyptian lawyers held for 'extremist' links

CAIRO (Agencies) — The government is holding two fundamentalist lawyers for talking by telephone with Muslim extremists abroad, the detained attorneys' colleagues said Friday.

Prosecutors for the state security agency took Ibrahim Nasr and Hussein Gaber into custody last Monday for questioning about alleged "contacts with outside terrorist groups," attorney Sayid Gadallah told the Associated Press Friday.

The chairman of the National Bar Association, Ahmad Khawaga, said prosecutors also alleged that both lawyers "were transferring money to... families" of suspected Muslim militants in jail.

A spokesman at the Interior Ministry, Captain Hatem Bateesh, said the pair "could be under interrogation" but had not been arrested.

Both Mr. Nasr and Mr. Gaber are associates of attorney Montasser Al Zayat, who has been in jail four months for suspected links with outside leaders of the Jihad ex-

tremist group. The men work out of Mr. Zayat's downtown Cairo office.

Mr. Zayat and at least 40 other attorneys were arrested last May in connection with a demonstration to protest the death in police custody of a fundamentalist lawyer. All but Mr. Zayat have been freed.

Jihad is among several radical movements trying to replace President Hosni Mubarak's largely secular Egyptian government with Islamic rule. More than 415 people have died in 2½ years of violence by Jihad, affiliated groups and Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah — the Islamic Group — and police retaliation.

Attorney Gadallah, who is working for the release of Mr. Nasr and Mr. Gaber, said he has not seen them since Monday, but he said other attorneys have told him the two were taken to maximum-security Tori prison south of Cairo.

He denied a report in the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat that they were

being investigated for "receiving orders" from a Jihad leader based in Yemen.

The newspaper reported Friday that Mr. Nasr and Mr. Gaber were transmitting information to Jihad members in Egypt from Jihad leader Tharwat Selah, an Egyptian under a death sentence passed in absentia.

Mr. Selah was convicted in a November 1993 attempt on the life of Egypt's prime minister, Atef Sedki, in which an 11-year-old school girl was killed and 18 people were wounded.

A sister of the blind Islamic cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman has been financing activists of Al Gamaa group since 1991, a legal source charged Friday.

Police uncovered Hamida Abdul Rahman's role in funding the Gamaa after arresting three of its armed wing, the source added.

The exiled sheikh, currently awaiting trial in the United States, is the spiritual leader of Gamaa.

Rahman's sister had "played a crucial role since 1991 in financing members of the organisation."

There were no immediate details on where the sheikh's sister is now, but her brother is due to face charges with 12 others of preparing a series of attacks in New York when a trial opens on Dec. 5.

The three arrested men, including a Palestinian, are accused by Egyptian authorities of involvement in April's murder of the deputy head of state security services, General Rauf Khairat, the source said.

In April, Sheikh Abdul Rahman was sentenced in his absence by a Cairo high court to seven years of hard labour for leading a violent anti-government protest in 1989 in Fayyum, southwest of Cairo.

He has lived in the United States since 1991.

Key suspects in the 1992 bombing of the World Trade Centre, which killed six people and left more than 1,000 injured, worshipped at the cleric's mosque in New Jersey.

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